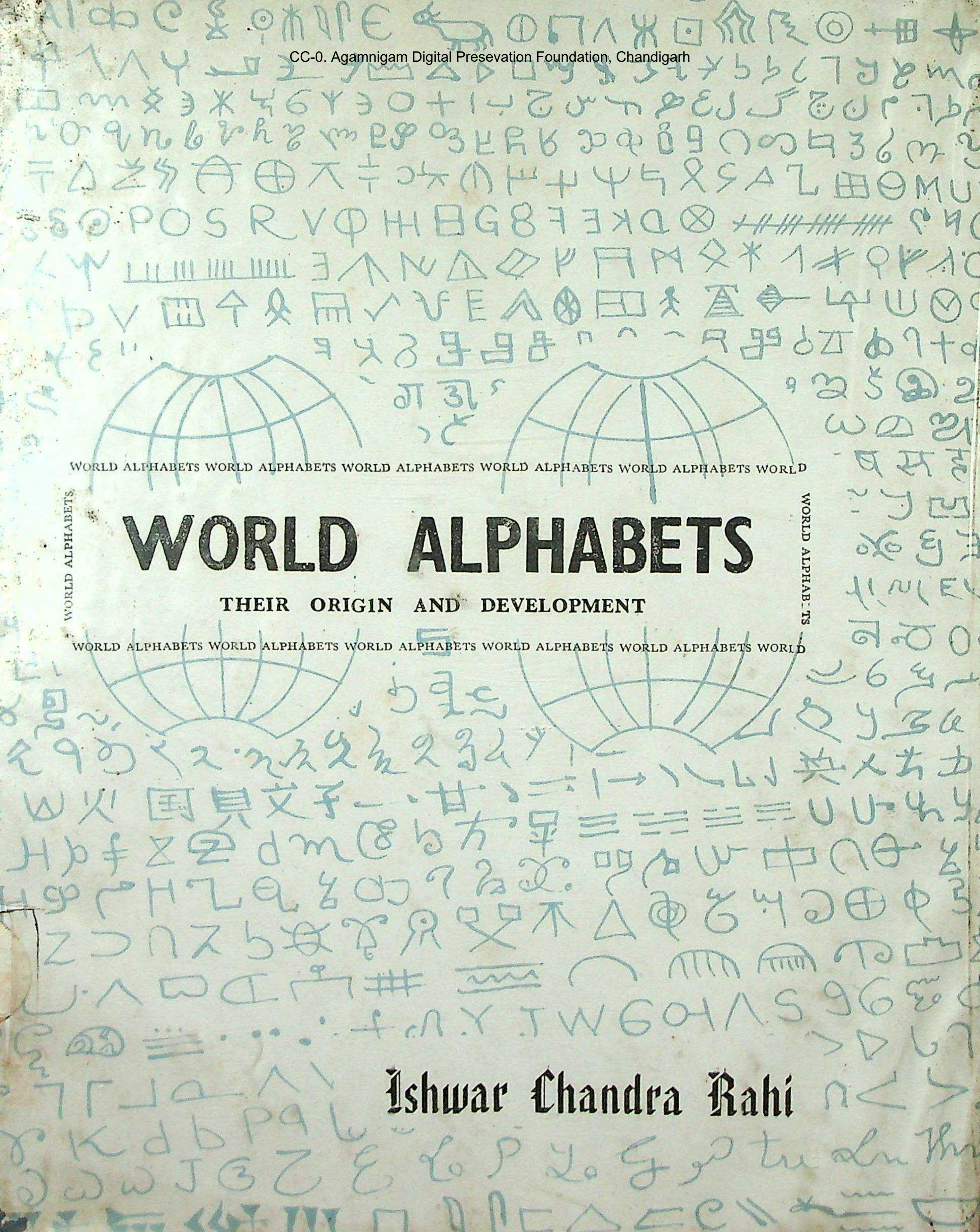

WORLD ALPHABETS WORLD ALPHABETS WORLD ALPHABETS WORLD ALPHABETS WORLD ALPHABETS WORLD
WORLD ALPHABETS
WORLD ALPHABETS
WORLD ALPHABETS WORLD ALPHABETS WORLD ALPHABETS WORLD ALPHABETS WORLD ALPHABETS WORLD

WORLD ALPHABETS

THEIR ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

Ishwar Chandra Rahi

UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD
ALLAHABAD Pin Code—211002

Dated November 30, 1977.

WORLD ALPHABETS
their origin and development
by
Shri Ishwar Chandra Rahi

I have gone through the book "World Alphabets--their origin and development" by Shri Rahi and it gives me immense pleasure that within a short span he has condensed an enormous volume of knowledge pertaining to the origin and development of scripts, specially of the ancient world. The range is encyclopaedic. The charts prepared by him will be found useful by all students interested in the knowledge of ancient scripts. For an Indian author it is an unique achievement. I congratulate Shri Rahi for the devotion and indefatigable labour he has displayed in the preparation of this book.

Sd. G. R. Sharma
Head of the Department of
Ancient History, Culture
and Archaeology, Centre
of Advanced Study and
Department of Special
Assisstance.

5235

WORLD ALPHABETS

their origin
and
development

Ishwar Chandra Rahi

First Edition

Price : Rupees 40.00
U. S. Dollars 5.00
Br. Pounds 3.00
(Postage Extra)

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

State Museum Library
5235
Lucknow

5235

Printed & Published by :
BHARGAVA PRINTING PRESS,
KATRA, ALLAHABAD.
U. P. - INDIA

PREFACE

This book is the first of its kind being published in India. It will project a complete picture about the birth of writing from Pictograms to Alphabets in all the countries of the world where culture and civilization were born. The combined efforts of the archaeologists, palaeographists, scientists, linguists, historians etc. have revealed the ways and means through which we came to know how the ancient people have conveyed their ideas and how the letters travelled from one country to another changing their shapes and sounds.

Most of the books on this subject are so technically and elaborately written that a man of letters, interested to know about the birth and development of alphabets, loses his interest in the subject. This book is written in such a manner that a reader can glance within two hours the most ancient and latest alphabets of the world. I have tried to set aside the technicalities of the subject and made it as simple as possible by giving few specimens, according to their availability, along with the alphabets. I am quite confident that this book would not only enlighten every reader but would also widen his outlook and eradicate many wrong notions he might have so far nurtured in his mind about the subject.

It was only by chance that in 1961 I was shown some epigraphs of Brahmi by Mr. Mohammad Abdul Waheed Khan, the then Director of Archaeology, Andhra Pradesh (India). This opportunity gave me on incentive to know more and more about it. I have read more than 250 books (only few are given at the end due to lack of space) on the subject in the libraries of Archaedogical departments and Museums of the different states of India. Deep study inculcated further impetus in me to undertake an intensive tour of 35 countries on a push-bike in 1974-76, only for the purpose of visiting the places where the alphabets were born. All this I did by myself without any monetary help from any where.

It is also not easy to condense all the collected material in a systematic manner and in an abridged form with clarity to the reader. Inspite of my wide study, I failed to get the alphabets of Demotic. It was only in the Egyptian Museum, Stockholm (Sweden) that I came across with a book on Demotic by Åkerblad—a Swedish scholar—which enabled me to enrich my book with Demotic alphabets.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not express my deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Mohd. Abdul Waheed Khan, Director of Archaeology, A. P. (India), Shri A. S. Wakankar, Department of Archaeology, Vikram University, Ujjain and Shri P. Bannerji, Assistant Director, National Museum, New Delhi for their valuable guidance and to all the scholars whose results of investigations in this field helped me a great deal in completing this book. I am also thankful to Shri Prem Nath Bhargava, Bhargava Printing Press, Allahabad (India) for taking keen interest in the printing of this book and to all my friends and well-wishers whose timely suggestions proved valuable for the book.

Ishwar Chandra Rahi

ALLAHABAD
15th. December 1977.

HINTS ON PHONETIC VALUES

Page	Phon. Val.	As in	Hindi	Page	Phon. Val.	As in	Hindi
5	a	Dictionary	अ	33	ā	Father	आ
	i	It	इ		j=y	(in North Europe)	य
	u	Bull	उ		j	Jar (English)	ज
	ch	Church	च	39	ī=ee	See	ई
	ḳ	(guttural)	क़		ū=oo	Food	ऊ
	kḥ	(guttural)	ख़		e	Prey	ए
	sh	shelter	श		o	Sole	ओ
9	aleph	(guttural-a)			au=ou	South	औ
	ayin	(deep guttural-a)			ȧ=ng	Going	अं
	ḥ	(guttural-h)			g (j)	Gigantic	ज-ग
	ẖ	(deep guttural-h)	ख़		gh	Ghost	घ
19	a̱=ao	(ayin)			chh	(ch+h)	छ
	d	Day	ड		jh	(j+h)	झ
	ṯ	Too	ट		ṭ	Toy	ट
	ẓ=s	Fusion			ṭh	Thaker	ड
21	ae	Aeronaut	ऐ		ḍ	Dog	ड
	g̣h	(guttural-g)	ग़		ḍh	Adhere	ढ
23	ẓh=s	Fusion			t	(soft—t)	त
	ts		त्स		th	Think	थ
	kh	(k+h)	ख		d	This	द
	dz		द्ज		dh	(d+h)	ध
	ph=f	Philosophy	फ़		ph	(p+h)	फ

Few phonetic values assigned to the alphabets in the book cannot be explained correctly unless they are learnt from the man who knows that language.

P. S. Thanks to Shri Shamsher Ahmad Khan, Research Scholar (Socio-linguistics) for some suggestions.

CC-0. Agamnigam Digital Preservation Foundation, Chandigarh

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 1

1. MESOPOTAMIAN 2—3

Sumerian, From Pictures to Cuneiform, Law Code of Hammurabi, Numerals, Assyrian Syllables, Vowels, Determinatives, Ancient and Neo-Babylonian.

2. PERSIAN 4—5
Elamite, Old Persian Cuneiform, Pahlavi (2 periods), and Zend Avesta.

3. EGYPTIAN — 1, 2, 3. 6—11
Words in Signs, Tri-Bi-Uni-Consonantal Signs of Hieroglyphs, Development of Hieratic, Demotic, Coptic and Hieroglyphic and Hieratic Numerals.

4. MEROITIC, HITTITIC Etc. 12—13
Meroitic, Demotic, Hittitic, Numidian and Berber.

5. WEST ASIAN — 1, 2, 3, 4. 14—21
Development of Phoenician Writing, Aramaic, Palmyrian (Two Styles), Hebrew (ancient and modern), Samaritan, Sabaean, Thamudic (Hejaz and Nejd), Lihyanian, Nabataean, Sinaitic Arabic, Safaitic, Umm-al-Jamal, Kufic and Naskh Arabic. Five systems of Syriac writing.

6. ARMENIAN & GEORGIAN 22—23
Armenian, Georgian of three periods, Khutsuri, Mehdruli.

7. PRE-HISTORIC GREEK 24—25
Cretan Pictograms, Development of Cypriotic from Linear A-B, Cypriotic Syllabary, Mycenaean Syllabary.

8. GREEK 26—27
Development of Greek letters, Alphabets of Athens, Corinth, Boeotia, Arcadia, Classic and Modern Greek.

9. ITALIAN 28—29
Etruscan, Umbrian, Oscan, Bolzano and three styles in Modifications from Old Latin to the Roman of today.

10. OTHER EUROPEAN — 1, 2, 3. 30—35
Glagolitic, Early Cyrillic, Bulgarian and Russian Cyrillic, Gothic, Ancient Hungarian, Bardic, Iberian, Oghams and Runes (of Old Germany, Anglo-Saxons, Denmark, Sweden and also Dotted, Dalska).

CC-0. Agamnigam Digital Preseyation Foundation, Chandigarh

11. INDUS—VALLEY 36—37
Alphabetic and Pictographic Signs.

12. OLD INDIAN 38—39
Kharoshti, Brahmi, Gupta, Kutil, Box-headed, Kamrup, Sharda and Takri.

13. MODERN INDIAN 40—41
Devnagari (Hindi), Bangla, Gurmukhi, Gujarati, Telgu, Malayalam, Tulu and Oriya.

14. SOUTH-EAST-ASIAN 42—43
Burmese (Old and New), Thai (Old and New), Cambodian (Old and New) and Javanese (Old and New).

15. HIMALAYAN 44—45
Nepalese (Kirat, Bhojin-Mol), Tibetan (U-Chen, U-Med, Passepa) and Lepcha of Sikkim.

16. MONGOLIAN 46—47
Uighur, Sogdian, Kalmuk, Buriat, Manchu, Kalik, Mangolian (Two Types) and Yanisi.

17. CHINESE—1, 2. 48—51
Pa-kua, Evolutionary period from Archaic to modern style (nine styles), Strokes, Numerals, Tones, Lo-Lo, Miao-tse and Ch'i-tan.

18. JAPANESE AND KOREAN 52—53
Kata-kana from Ka'i-shu, Hira-gana from Ts'ao-shu, Pumso and On-mun.

19. AFRICAN—1, 2. 54—57
Ethiopic, Nsibidi, Somali, Bamun, Vai, Mende, and Ancient Abyssinian.

20. AMERICAN—1, 2. 58—61
Systems of Aztecs and Mayans. Cherokee, Cree, Alaskan (Pictographic and Syllabic) and Story in Pictograms.

21. FEW OTHER 62—63
Ideographic system of Easter Island, Short-hand, Braille, International Picto and some Modern Signs.

CONCLUSION 64

BIBLIOGRAPHY 65—66

In all 162 types of Alphabets are given in this book.

INTRODUCTION

No definite date or period can be asserted about the beginning of speech and script which must have developed through the process of evolution in many centuries. Many factors can be attributed to this development, such as, sounds of natural forces, birds and animals, fear, struggle for existence, tribal wars and fusion of different faiths and ways of life. It has now been taken for granted that the speech originated through the imitation of the common sounds and writing began with the imitation of the common objects.

After many researches the scholars have established the following stages in the birth and development of writing :—

1. Iconographic (Idol worship) or Pictographic writing in which the picture would only carry the sense of the object. If the picture of 'Sun' is drawn, it would only mean 'Sun'.
2. Hieroglyphic or Ideographic writing in which the picture would carry some meaning behind it. If the 'Sun' is drawn it would mean 'day', 'light' or 'heat'. There is one more type of writing called Logographic (Greek : Logos=word ; Graphein=to write) that is one sign for one word. Chinese is purely Logographic.
3. Phonetic writing in which the sound was produced in the symbol. This was done through acrophony system. In this a part of the picture is taken to which the first sound of the word—that stands for the picture is assigned, as such, the head of the ox was assigned the sound of 'A' being the first sound of the Akkadian word "Alpu" (Aleph). This phonetic system has two divisions :—
   a. Syllabic (sign with two sounds consonant plus vowel.)
   b. Alphabetic (sign with one sound only).

Words came first and then letters which have been changing from time to time and from place to place, giving birth to different systems of writing in the absence of a printing press Now such frequent changes have come to a stop.

However, writing has become the vehicle of the civilization and so of learning. The past unknown became known today because something written was left by man. Ideas and theories are preserved for future generation through writing, Archaeological finds have revolutionised our knowledge and unveiled the curtain of mystery about the ancient world.

Dating of the pottery and of many other finds unearthed through archaelogical excavations remained very debatable for many decades. Inspite of systems of tests for knowing the period of the finds unearthed, already invented by scientists, were not accepted unanimously. In 1949 American scientist A. W. F. Libby became successful in evolving a process of dating, termed as "Carbon — 14 test". His efforts has won him a Nobel prize, but it was also refuted by few scientists. However, in the absence of any other fool-proof system of dating, it has been accepted by archaeologists and many scientists.

MESOPOTAMIAN

Mesopotamia the land between the two rivers – as called by Greeks – was divided into three regions – Sumer (south), Akkad or Babylonia (middle) and Assyria (North). Sumerians started their writing with lines by scratching on hard-clay-tablets for depicting Gods and used the same system for depicting the things of daily use as well. Such diagrams became conventional and were employed for writing about 3200 B. C.

SUMERIAN : Top left – is a clay-tablet belonging to king Eannatum (c. 3000 B. C.) excavated in 1878 by De Sarzec – a French archaeologist from Lagash (modern Telloh). It is to be read from top to bottom and right to left :– 1. E-AN-NA-TUM-ME ; 2. SUS GA L; 3. BABBAR ; 4. LUGAL ZALSI-GA-KA ; 5. LU GIS-HU-RA ; 6. E-MA-SUM. (Meaning : I Eannatum the great net of Babbar of the king, of he, who is filled with high over the people of Umma, I threw it.

CUNEIFORM : Top right – is the transformation from Sumerian Pictograms (c.3200 B. C.) to Assyrian Cuneiform. A big list of such transformation was prepared by Edward Hincks of Ireland in 1850. The direction of the signs drawn in the first column was changed in the second. In the third column the name of the sign is given in Sumerian language along with its meaning in English. In the fourth column Sumerians adopted a quicker way of writing by pressing on soft-clay-tablets either with nails or with a stylus – wider in front and pointed at the back. These tablets used to be dried, baked and then preserved for record. This writing was named ‘Cuneiform’ (Latin : Cuneus = wedge ; Forma = shape ; wedge shape writing) by Prof. Thomas Hyde of Oxford University and by Engelbert Kampfer in 1700 A. D. It was born in c. 3000 B. C. In the fifth column is the Old-Babylonian (c. 2500 – 2000 B. C.) and in the sixth is Classic-Assyrian Cuneiform (c. 1950 B. C.). There are about 640 Sumerian Pictograms.

OLD BABYLONIAN : Mid-left is a part of the Law Code of 282 sections, finalised by Hammurabi*, found engraved on a rock (about 7 ft high) and excavated by J. de Morgan in 1901 from SUSA (Shushu), capital of ELAM (Susiana), now preserved in the Louvre-Museum, Paris. The direction is top to bottom. Its meaning is :—“If a man destroys one's eye they would destroy his eye.” Right side -- are Cuneiform-numerals, reading -- 4232.

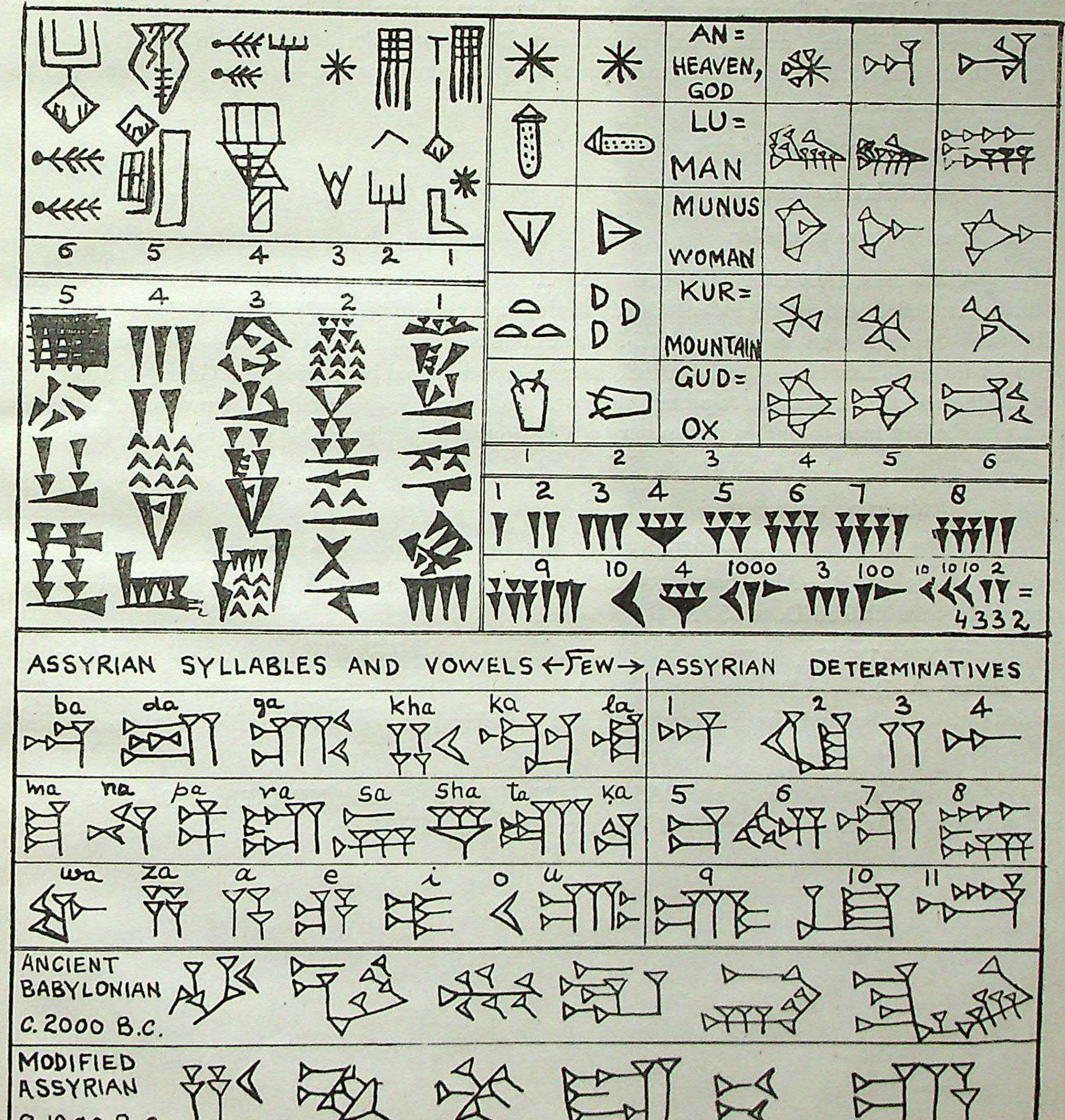
ASSYRIAN SYLLABLES AND VOWELS : a great advancement towards simplification. 30,000 baked-bricks of clay – now in British Museum, London – with many subjects inscribed on them were unearthed by (Sir) Henry Layard (1845-51) from the library of Ashurbanipal II (669 – 625 B. C.), located in Nineveh (modern Kuyunjik), the capital of Assyria (Assyria is the Greek form of Ashur. (c. 2000 – 611 B. C.).

ASSYRIAN DETERMINATIVES : their meanings are given below as per numbers :— 1. ILU = God ; 2 ASHRU = place ; 3. SHINA = two ; 4. SUBATU = dress ; 5. ISU = wood ; 6. SHARU = wind ; 7. ALU = locality ; 8. AMELU = man ; 9. SHAMA = plant ; 10. NUNU = fish ; 11. ARKHU = month.

---

*Scholars are divided about Hammurabi's period :— 1792 — 1750 B. C. in Encyclopaedia Br. Vol. 11. P. 42 ; 1958 — 1916 B. C. by Jastrow and Eduard Meyer and 2123 — 2081 B. C. by R. C. Thompson and L. W. King see page 156, Cambridge Ancient History Vol., 1 (1923).

MESOPOTAMIAN


6 5 4 3 2 1
5 4 3 2 1
AN = HEAVEN, GOD
LU = MAN
MUNUS WOMAN
KUR = MOUNTAIN
GUD = OX
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 4 1000 3 100 10 10 10 2 =
4332
ASSYRIAN SYLLABLES AND VOWELS ←FEW→
ASSYRIAN DETERMINATIVES
ba da ga kha ka la
ma na pa ra sa sha ta ḳa
wa za a e i o u
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11
ANCIENT BABYLONIAN C. 2000 B.C.
MODIFIED ASSYRIAN C. 1200 B.C.
HAMURABI Ha am mu ra bi lu-gal

PERSIAN

ELAMITE : The present south-west of Iran was once called Elam with its capital at Susa from where a bi-lingual (ancient Babylonion and Elamite) tablet belonging to king Inshushinak (2256 B. C.) was excavated, of which three lines are given on top left — to be read from top to bottom and left to right :—

1—To his god Inshushinak, who is the maker of man.

2—I Shilak Inshushinak.

3—Dedicates this pillar.

OLD PERSIAN CUNEIFORM : Sir Henry Rawlinson, a military officer in diplomatic service, succeeded to decipher independently through his knowledge of Persian and Zend (Avestan). He was the first man to copy (1835-37) the famous unreachable trilingual — Old Persian, Neo Babylonion and Susanian — Behistun rock in-scriptions engraved by Darius the Great in 516 B. C. at a high and isolated place as to protect glories of his reign for the coming generation. Rawlinson was also the first man to unfold the mystery of Cuneiform by publishing his work in 1847 which was recognised by Royal Asiatic Society in 1857.

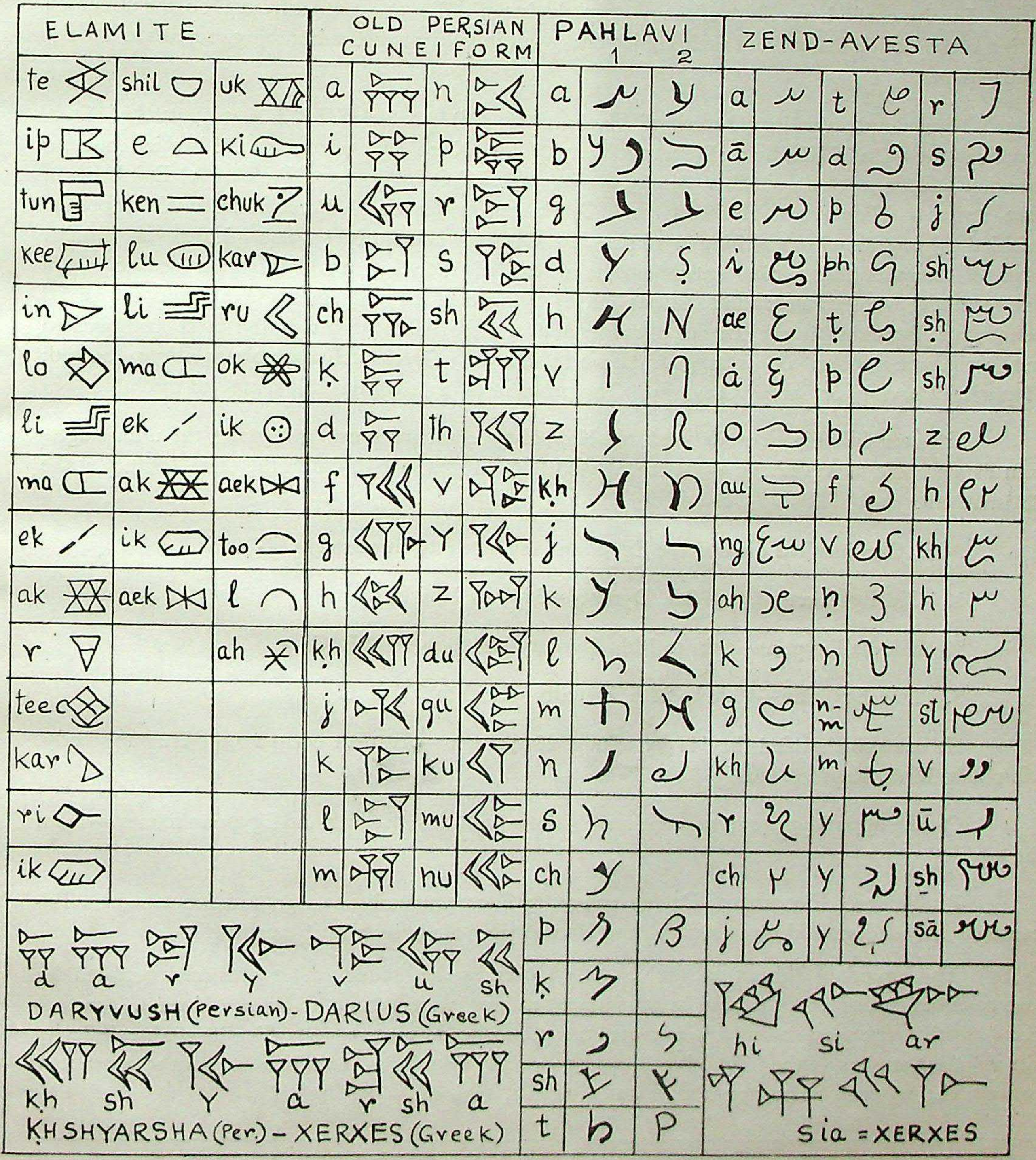
The direction was left to right with 30 letters.

PAHLAVI : The word 'Pahlavi' is derived from 'Parthavi'. This has 20 letters and no vowels. In column 1.—Alphabets of Arsacid period (250 B. C. to 250 A. D.) and in column 2.— of Sassanid period (250 A. D. to 650 A. D.) are given.

ZEND-AVESTA : This is the religious writing of the Parsees - now settled in India from 7th. century A. D. when Persia was conquered by Arabs. It has 52 letters. More vowels were added due to Indian and Greek contacts. It was probably invented much earlier but modified in 4th. century A. D.

At the bottom two names of DARIUS (422 — 448 B. C.) and XERXES (480 — 465 B C. son of Darius of Achamenid Dynasty of Persia, modern Iran) are given.

PERSIAN


ELAMITE
OLD PERSIAN CUNEIFORM
PAHLAVI 1 2
ZEND-AVESTA
te ip tun kee in lo li ma ek ak r teec kar ri ik
shil e ken lu li ma ek ak ik aek
uk ki chuk kar ru ok ik aek too l ah
a i u b ch ḳ d f g h ḳh j k l m
n p r s sh t th v Y z du gu ku mu nu
a b g d h v z ḳh j k l m n s ch p ḳ r sh t
a ā e i ae ȧ o au ng ah k g kh r ch j
t d p ph ṭ þ b f v ḥ n n-m m y y y
r s j sh sh̥ sh z h kh h Y st v ū sh sā
d a r Y v u sh
DARYVUSH (Persian) - DARIUS (Greek)
kh sh Y a r sh a
ḲHSHYARSHA (Per.) - XERXES (Greek)
hi si ar
Sia = XERXES

EGYPTIAN.........1

Inspite of the best efforts of many egyptologists of different countries from 1756, the unknown writing could not be known and their conjectural work in volumes proved nothing more than a heap of wastepaper.

Miraculously a trilingual stone of black basalt (3'.9" × 2'.4½ × 11") was unearthed from Rosetta in the delta of Nile by a French soldier of the Napoleon's army in 1799 which became known as Rosetta stone on which a priestly decree of 197 B.C. in honour of Ptolemy (v) Epiphanes in three scripts — Hieroglyphs, Demotic and Greek was engraved. A French scholar Champollion unfolded the mystery of this writing in 1822. His untiring efforts of 14 years yielded unrefutable result of decipherment which enlightened and baffled the whole world about the historic past of that country whose rulers and priests have constructed the most unimaginable and unparallel monuments (Pyramids) in the absence of cranes and trolleys and invented the most complicated first alphabetic system of writing in the world, called by Greeks "Hieroglyphs" (Hieros = Sacred; Glyphein = Carving) or Sacred Carvings. The problem of its origin has still remained insoluble.

However, it has been established that Hieroglyphic writing must have passed the usual stages– from Pictographic to Alphabetic — before c. 3400 B. C. It fell into disuse in the third century of the Christian era.

A. H. Gardiner has divided the Egyptian language into three stages :—

1. Old Egyptian—1st. to 8th. Dynasty—3400 to 2400 B. C.
2. Middle Egyptian—9th. to 18th. Dynasty—2400 to 1350 B. C.
3. Late Egyptian—18th. to 24th. Dynasty—1350 to 700 B. C.

He has also classified the 744 signs into 27 sections— Human occupation, Human body, Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, etc.

On the opposite page signs are given — along with their English and Egyptian names — from the top :—

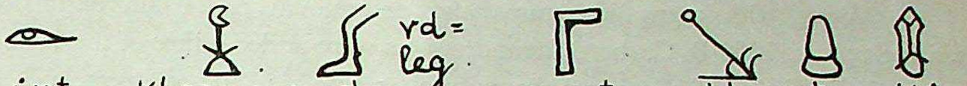
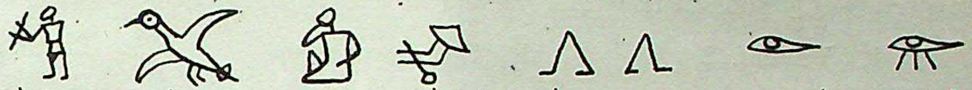
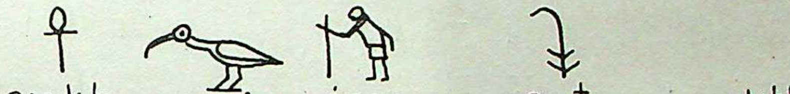
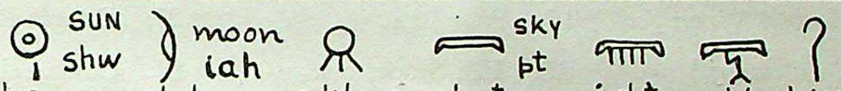
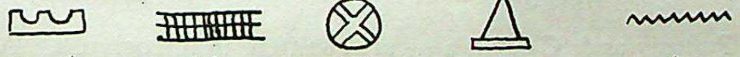
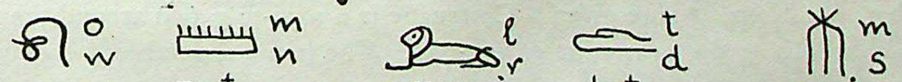
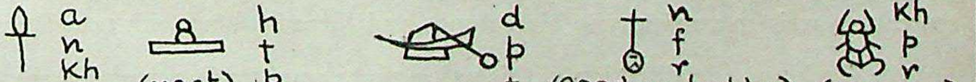
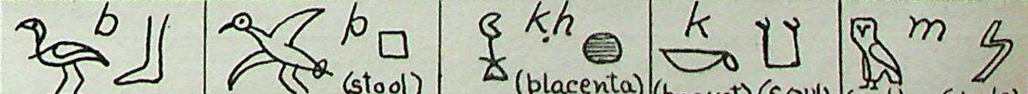
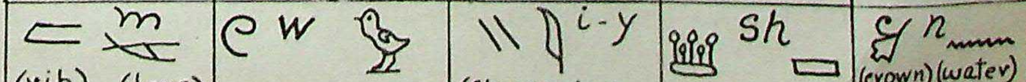
Pictograms; Ideograms; Determinatives *; Bi-consonantal (one sign and two sounds); Tri-consonantal (one sign and three sounds) and Homophones along with their meaning.

The Egyptians did not use the vowels. Generally the sound of 'e' was used between the two consonants such as, 'nt' would be pronounced as 'net' (water), 'smt' as 'smet' (desert), 'bw' as 'bew' (foot). The semi-vowel 'w' was sometimes pronounced as 'u' or 'o'. The inevitable difficulty for any fresh student of the Egyptian language would arise in its vocalisation in the absence of vowels, viz; 'ws' may be pronounced as was, wes, ews, awsa etc.

---

* Determinatives are generally given along with hieroglyphic writing as to clarify the meaning of the words.

EGYPTIAN - 1

WORD SIGNS IN PICTURES	 irt eye khaw nw sshn stalk and leaf of lotus rd = leg mrrt corner hb plough te loaf tbt sandal
WORD SIGNS IN IDEAS	 hi to strike pe fly wnm to eat khni to row shm go ann turn back dgi see rmi to weep
WORD SIGNS IN ABSTRACT IDEAS	 anḳh life qmi to find iaw old age swt upper Egypt ḳbb (be cool) pot-pouring water
WORD SIGNS IN DETERMINATIVES	 SUN shw hrw day moon iah ebd month aḳhw sun shine sky pt hrt heaven idt rain wḳh night hke sceptre (to rule)
	 smt desert spt district wst town mr pyramid nt water ḳhnmt well with water
FEW BILITERAL SIGNS	 o w ww lasso m n znt draught board l r rw lion t d ḏrt hand m s msi give birth
FEW TRILITERAL SIGNS	 a n ḳh life h t p (rest) loaf on mat d p t boat n f r (good or happy) heart + wind-pipe Kh p r (become) dung beetle
FEW HOMO-PHONES	 b ba bew p (stool) pe pn ḳh (placenta) ḳhaw ḳht k (basket) (soul) ka m (owl) (sickle) ma
TWO SIGNS WITH SAME SOUND	 m (rib) im (love) mar w (quail chick) i-y (flowering-reed) ei sh (pool) sha n (crown) (water) nt nt

EGYPTIAN.........2

Along with many ideograms and determinatives 24 uni-consonantal signs were used in writing upto c. 1000 B. C. thereafter more signs were added either of the same or of different phonetic values due to fusion of aliens into the cultural and political life of Egypt, such as, Hebrews, Nubians, Persians and Greeks, thus 30 (24+6) alphabetic signs along with their names in English and Egyptian are given :—(Question mark means, not known)

1. Vulture...?
2. Flowering Reed...?
3. Forearm...?
4. Quail chick...?
5. Foot; *bew.*
6. Stool; *poi.*
7. Horned Viper; *fet.*
8. Owl; *moulaj.*[1]
9. Water; *nat.*
10. Mouth; *ro.*
11. Courtyard; *neper.*
12. Twisted Wick...?
13. Human Placenta...?
14. Vulva...?
15. Bolt...?
16. Folded Cloth...?
17. Pool; *sha.*
18. Hill Slope; *kaa.*
19. Basket...?
20. Jar-stand...?
21. Bread; *taa.*
22. Tethering Rope; *theth.*
23. Hand; *dat.*
24. Snake; *zet.*
25. Lasso; *wew.*
26. Lion; *rew.*
27. Double Reed...?
28. Cursive shape of No.4.
29. Two Ribs...?
30. Red Crown; *net.*

Two names — Ptolemy and Cleopatra — are written in hieroglyphs. Another two names Ramses[2] (Son of Ra — Sun god) and Thutmos[3] (son of Ibis-headed Thoth — god of learning) on the left and four styles of "Hrw (Day)" on the right are given. After ten words two cartouches of Ptolemy and Pepi-1[4] are given. Cartouche is a rope-ring tied around the names of Kings and Queens, symbolising the protection of Sun-god. The round shape became oblong due to the length of names.

At bottom left two words are given along with early and late hieratic. Bottom right — a sentence is written vertically in hieroglyphs and hieratic along with transliteration and translation.

To know the direction of this writing when written horizontally, the direction of pictographic signs must be observed. If their direction is towards left it should be read from left to right and if to right, should be read from right to left.

N.B. The sounds of (1) and (2) are 'aleph' and 'ayin'.

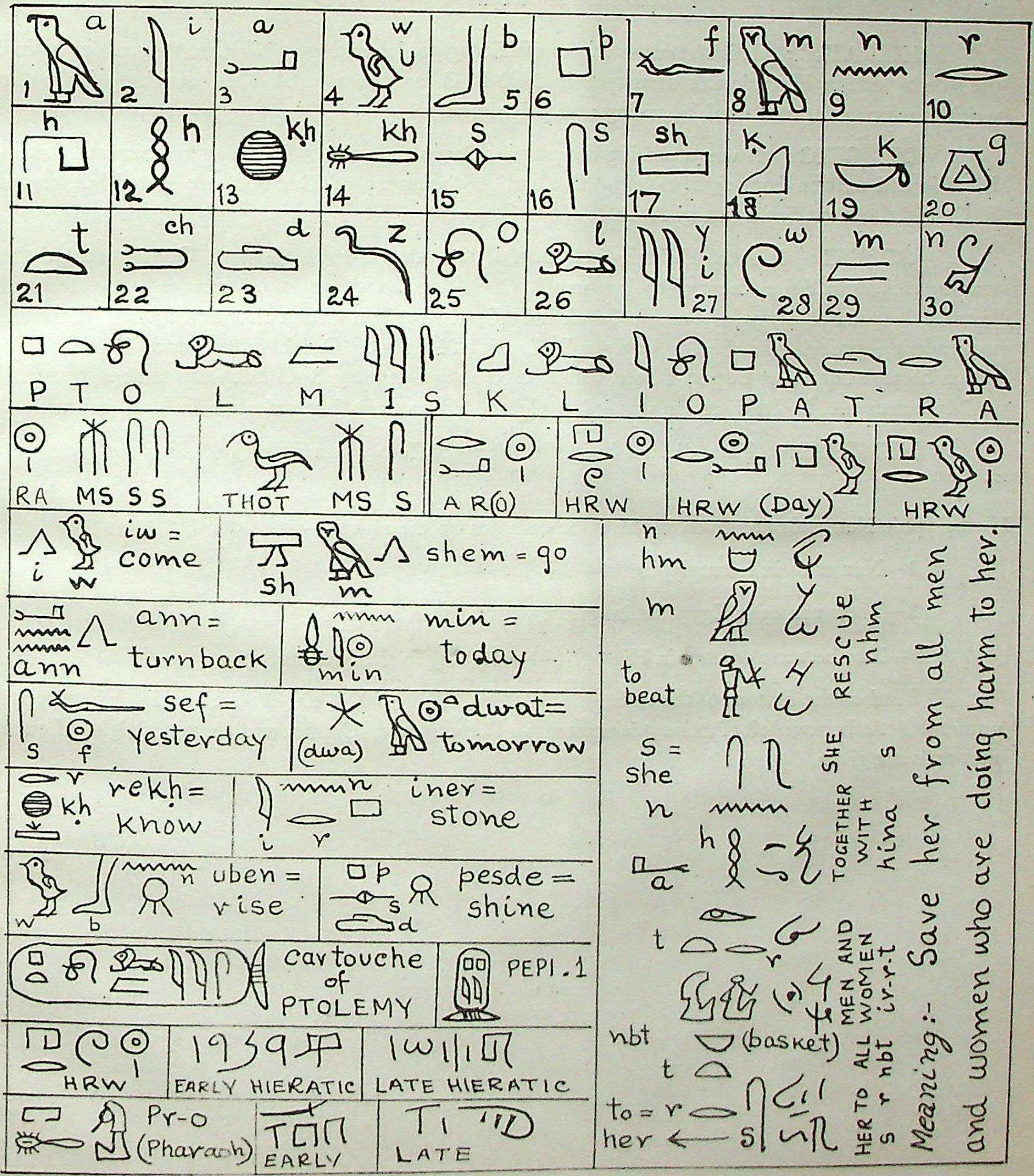
[1] Coptic.

[2] Ramesses—the 8th. king of the 19th. and 20th. dynasty (1320—1085 B. C.).

[3] Thutmosis—the 3rd. king of 18th. dynasty (1567—1320 B. C.).

[4] The 3rd. king of the 6th. dynasty (2345—2181, B. C.).

EGYPTIAN - 2


a 1
i 2
a 3
w u 4
b 5
p 6
f 7
m 8
n 9
r 10
h 11
h 12
kh 13
kh 14
s 15
s 16
sh 17
k 18
k 19
g 20
t 21
ch 22
d 23
z 24
o 25
l 26
y i 27
w 28
m 29
n 30
P T O L M I S
K L I O P A T R A
RA MS S S
THOT MS S
A R(O)
HRW
HRW (Day)
HRW
iw = come
i w
shem = go
sh m
ann= turnback
ann
min = today
min
sef = yesterday
s f
(dwa) dwat= tomorrow
r kh
rekh= know
iner= stone
n i r
uben = rise
w b n
pesde = shine
p s d
cartouche of PTOLEMY
PEPI.1
HRW
EARLY HIERATIC
LATE HIERATIC
Pr-o (Pharaoh)
EARLY
LATE
n
hm
m
to beat
s = she
n
h
a
t
r
nbt
(basket)
t
to = r
her
s
SHE RESCUE nhm
TOGETHER WITH hina
MEN AND WOMEN ir.r.t
HER TO ALL s r nbt
Meaning:- Save her from all men and women who are doing harm to her.

EGYPTIAN.........3

HIERATIC : It is the cursive form of Hieroglyphic writing. Whether they were both in use side by side or Hieratic was developed in 2500 B. C. is not well established so far. Both these writings were learnt and used by ruling and priestly class.

DEMOTIC : It was a writing for people (Demo = People). It was more cursive form of Hieratic and written from right to left. The earliest document of Demotic are dated 8th. century B. C. and the latest 5th. century A. D.

COPTIC : It is the Europianised form of the Arabic word 'Gypt'. Greeks started their trading centres in Egypt during 6th. century B. C. After the death of Alexander, Alexander III became the ruler of Egypt who made Greek the official language. As such a new system of writing was invented probably in the 2nd century B. C. with 24 signs of Greek letters and 7 of Demotic which became known as Coptic. It was widely used in first century B. C. but was replaced by Arabic in 7th. century A. D. Its direction was left to right. However, it lingered on upto 15th. century.

NUMERALS : They did not have the system of Zero as such they had signs for 10, 20, 100 and fractions as well etc.

Hieroglyphic Numerals are given in the three columns on the right :—

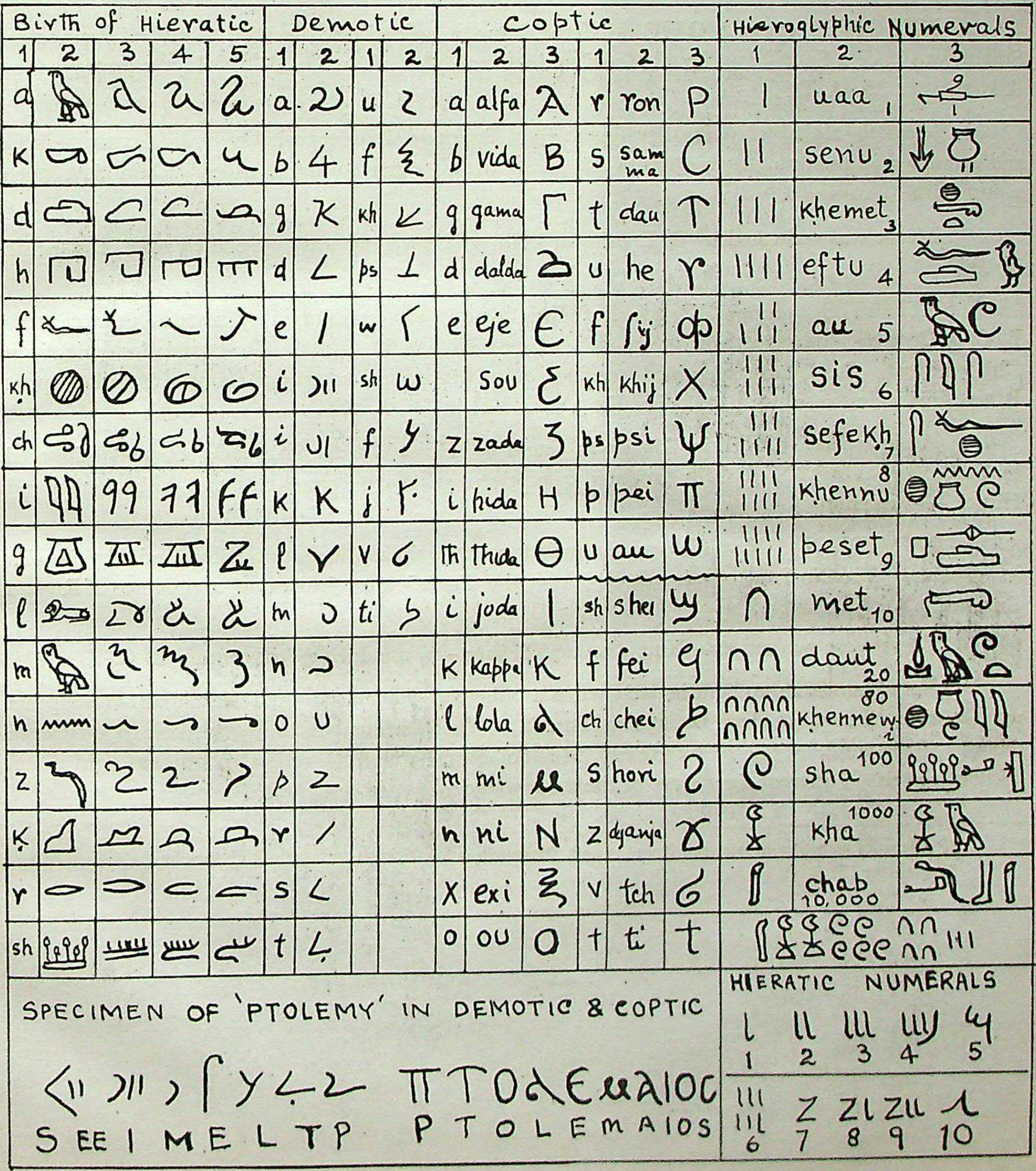
1—Numerals in Hieroglyphs.

3—Their names in Egyptian language with English numerals.

3—Numbers are written in Hieroglyphs according to their names.

Read at the bottom of the right side 10,000 + 2,000 + 500 + 40 + 3 = 12,543 in Hieroglyphic numerals. At bottom left 'Ptolemy' is written in Demotic and Coptic and bottom right Hieratic numerals are given.

EGYPTIAN - 3


Birth of Hieratic
Demotic
Coptic
Hieroglyphic Numerals
1 2 3 4 5
a k d h f kh ch i g l m n z k r sh
a b g d e i i k l m n o p r s t
u f kh ps w sh f j v ti
a alfa
b vida
g gama
d dalda
e eje
sou
z zada
i hida
th thida
i joda
k kappa
l lola
m mi
n ni
x exi
o ou
r ron
s samma
t dau
u he
f fij
kh khij
ps psi
p pei
u au
sh shei
f fei
ch chei
s hori
z dyanja
v tch
t ti
uaa 1
senu 2
khemet 3
eftu 4
au 5
sis 6
sefekh 7
khennu 8
peset 9
met 10
daut 20
khennew 80
sha 100
kha 1000
chab 10,000
SPECIMEN OF 'PTOLEMY' IN DEMOTIC & COPTIC
ΠΤΟλΕΜΑΙΟC
SEEIMELTP
PTOLEMAIOS
HIERATIC NUMERALS
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

MEROITIC HITTITIC ETC.

MEROITIC & DEMOTIC : Meroe, now a ruined city in the Northern Province of Sudan, was once a flourishing capital of a Kingdom named Cush in 590 B. C. It was destroyed by Askumites in 350 A. D.

Meroitic alphabets were developed from Egyptian writing probably in 3rd. century B. C. and remained in use upto 4th. century A. D. along with a cursive writing called "Demotic", given along with Meroitic.

Meroe was excavated by R. Lepsius in 1844. The writing was deciphered by F. L. Griffith in 1909.

HITTITIC : A new Kingdom of Hitti (Khitti) was established by about 16th. century B. C. in Central Turkey with Hatti (modern Boghazkoy) as its capital. It started decaying from 12th century B. C and remained confined only within two centres of Carcemish and Aleppo. It was finally destroyed by Babylonian King Sargon-II in 717 B. C.

A big archive of Hittitic Kings was found by Hugo Winkler in 1909. It was deciphered by Sayce and others. I. J. Gelb prepared the given syllabary from a bilingual – Phoenician and Hittitic – inscription.

NUMIDIAN : Numidia was an ancient country situated between Libya and Algeria with its capital at Cirta in 3rd. century B. C. After the Punic* wars it became a province of Roman Empire.

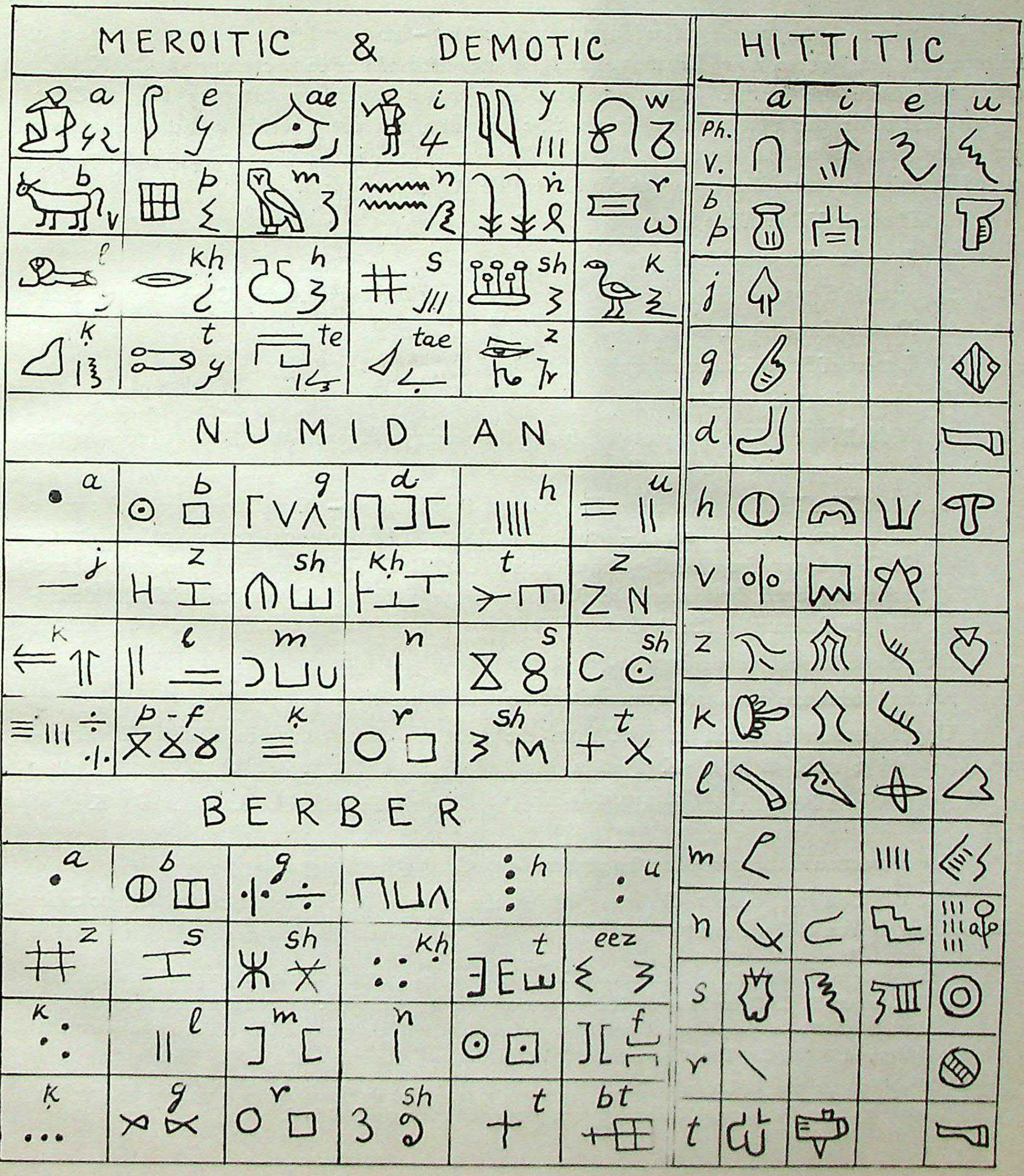
There were two scripts – Numidian and Berber – in use during 3rd. century B C.

Numidian came to light in 1631 when a bilingual – Phoenician and Numidian – inscription was found in Thugga (modern Dougga in Tunisia). Thereafter many bilingual inscriptions were found. They were deciphered by Helevy, Meinhof and Mercier. Direction of both was right to left without vowels. Different signs were of the same sound.

---

*Punic wars were fought between Romans and Phoenicians for taking Carthage, which was finally destroyed by Romans in 122 B. C.

MEROITIC HITTITIC


MEROITIC & DEMOTIC
a
e
ae
i
y
w
b
p
m
n
ṅ
r
l
kh
h
s
sh
k
k̇
t
te
tae
z
NUMIDIAN
a
b
g
d
h
u
j
z
sh
kh
t
z
k
l
m
n
s
sh
p - f
k̇
r
sh
t
BERBER
a
b
g
h
u
z
s
sh
kh
t
eez
k
l
m
n
f
k
g
r
sh
t
bt
HITTITIC
a
i
e
u
Ph. V.
b p
j
g
d
h
v
z
k
l
m
n
s
r
t

WEST ASIAN.........1

Phoenicians – the people of red and brown colour – have settled on the eastern coast of Mediterranean Sea, where now Lebanon stands, somewhere about 16th. century B. C. Nobody knows from where they came. They expanded their trade superamacy after the fall of Crete. They are said to be the first people to invent 22 consonantal alphabets which are now being used after many changes by half the world. In the following columns are given the birth ahd development of Phoenician letters (also known as North Semitic Writing) :—

1. Phonetic Value of the letters.
2. Egyptian Pictographic Signs.
3. Sinaitic Signs.
4. Names of the Signs.
5. Letters of Phoenician writing.[1]

(1–5:) The list of letters with acrophony system was prepared by A. H. Gardiner and Sethe in 1916.

6. Names in Ancient Hebrew.
7. MOABITE : The people of Moab[2] (a country in North-West Arabia) invented this writing in 9th. century B. C. from Phoenician writing.
8. CARTHAGIAN : Carthage (Karthdasht) now in ruins – 20 miles north of the present Tunis, capital of Tunisia – was once a flourishing cultural centre during 7th. century B. C. and was founded by Phoenicians in 812 B. C. The pepole, who migrated there, have developed their own style from Phoenician writing. Carthage was finally destroyed by Romans in 122 B. C.

Direction of the adove writings was right to left.

At the bottom are given two specimens, to be read as below :—

Upper portion is taken in part from the Moabite Stone (now in British Museum) – An (o) k (i) M (e) sh a B (e) n K (a) m (a) shm (a) ld M (a) l (a) k M (o) ab.

Anoki Mesha Ben Kamashmald Malak Moab = I am Mesha, son of Kamashmald, King of Moab.

Lower portion is the part of an inscription from Carthage reading as:—

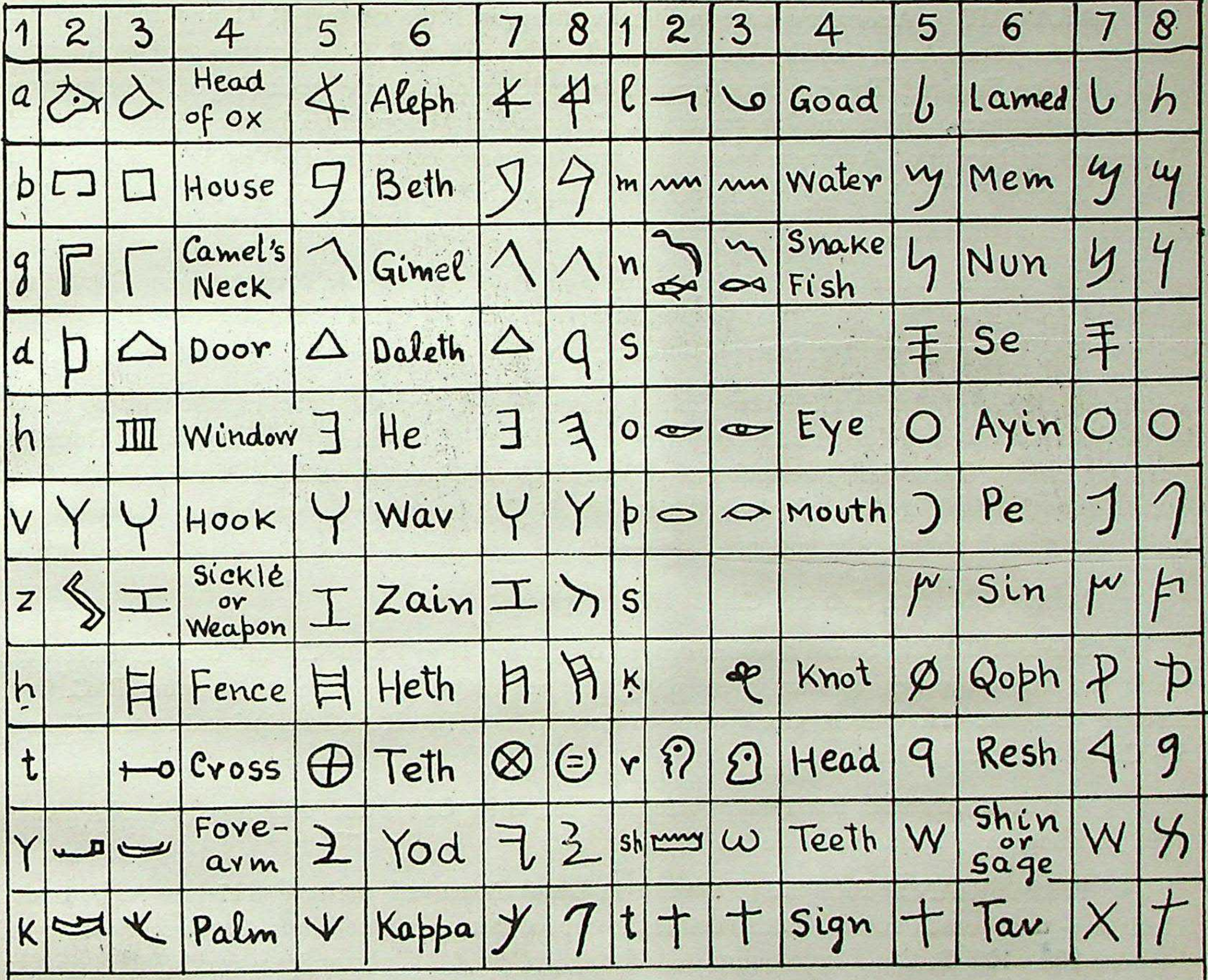
"To Goddess and Mother Goddess, who is the mistress of the most sacred ritualistic codes (offered) from the son of Baalhana."

---

[1] According to Flinders Petrie Hyksos and Canaanites used to work together in copper mines of Sinai in 17th. century B. C. Canaanites gave Hebrew names to the Egyptian signs. In 1932 a French archaeologist Montel unearthed a grave-stone of lime from Sidon (Lebanon) belonging to King Ahiram who was ruling Byblos in 1300 B. C. The Phoenician letters are given from this inscription.

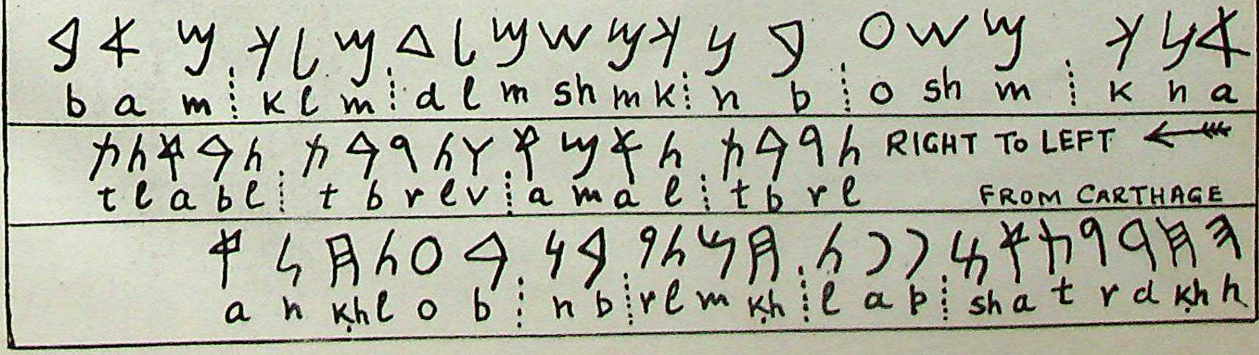
[2] Moab was the son of Lot who founded this city-state in c. 10th. century B. C. A rock-inscription was unearthed from Dibon in 1868-now in Louvre Museum, Paris, dated 842 B. C. belonging to King Mesha.

WEST - ASIAN - 1



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
a			Head of ox		Aleph			l			Goad		Lamed		
b			House		Beth			m			Water		Mem		
g			Camel's Neck		Gimel			n			Snake Fish		Nun		
d			Door		Daleth			s					Se		
h			Window		He			o			Eye		Ayin		
v			Hook		Wav			p			Mouth		Pe		
z			Sickle or Weapon		Zain			s					Sin		
ḥ			Fence		Heth			ḳ			Knot		Qoph		
t			Cross		Teth			r			Head		Resh		
Y			Fore-arm		Yod			sh			Teeth		Shin or Sage		
K			Palm		Kappa			t			Sign		Tav		

SPECIMENS OF MOAB (7) AND CARTHAGE (8)



b a m ⁝ k l m ⁝ d l m sh m k ⁝ n b ⁝ o sh m ⁝ k h a

t l a b l ⁝ t b r l v ⁝ a m a l ⁝ t b r l

RIGHT TO LEFT ←

FROM CARTHAGE

a n ḳh l o b ⁝ n b ⁝ r l m ḳh ⁝ l a p ⁝ sh a t r d ḳh h

WEST ASIAN.........2

ARAMAIC : Aramaeans were politically strong in 11th. century B. C. and they founded their chief City-State Aram (modern Damuscus). In 8th. century B. C. Aramaean states succumbed to the Assyrian Empire. The end of political independence marked the beginning of the Aramaean cultural superamacy. By about 7th. century B. C. Syria and Mesopotamia became fully Aramised. The speech and script of Aramaeans were adopted by many countries of West-Asia. Even Jesus spoke in Aramaic. The letters given in the first column belong to Aramaic of 9th. century B. C. Direction was right to left

The earliest Aramaic written document is a short inscription discovered in Gazan and published in 1910. Thereafter, many more were found dating 9th. and 8th. century B. C. This writing was developed from Phoenician in 10th. century B. C.

HEBREW : Ancient Hebrew (Col. 1) was invented from Aramaic in 6th. century B. C. by the Jews who were released from captivity in Persia by Cyrus in 6th. century B. C. Direction was right to left. The oldest inscription of this writing was found in Araq-el-Amir (15 miles from Dead Sea on the bank of River Jordon) dating 180 B. C. It was deciphered by Lidzbarski. A short inscription is given at the bottom.

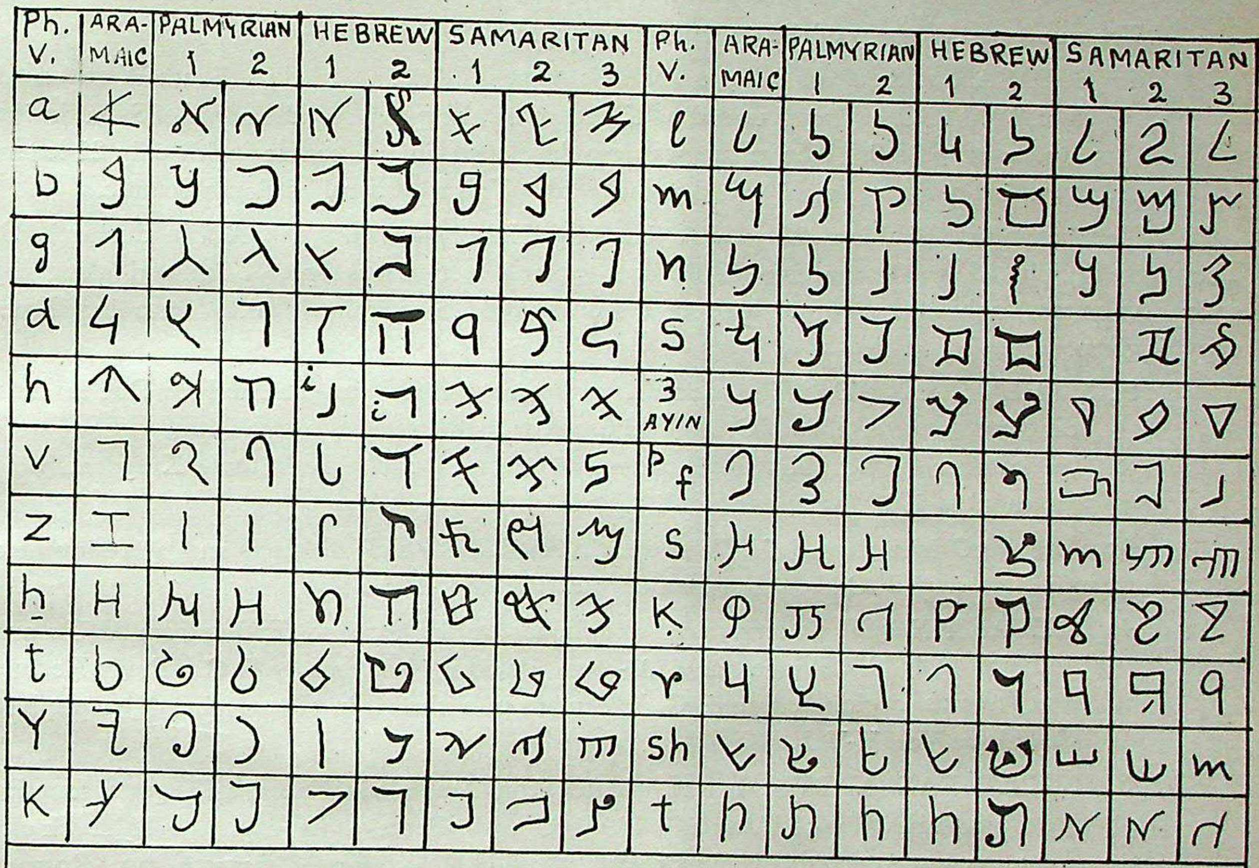
Letters of Modern Hebrew (Col. 2) are also given.

SAMARITAN : Samaria was destroyed by Sargon II in 720 B. C. and the ten tribes were made captive. This writing was invented by the remaining people in 4th. century B. C. from Ancient Hebrew. Here it is given with its three styles :—1 – Rock Inscriptional . 2 – Biblical. 3 – Cursive for hand-writing

A part of Aramaic inscription which was found in Cilicia and deciphered by Noldeke in 1892, reading as, "I am Washvansha............".

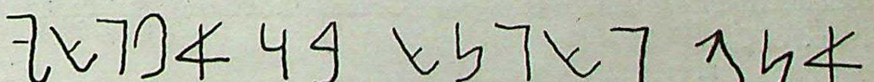
PALMYRIAN : Palmyra (Tedmore in Latin) flourished between 117-138 A. D. under Haidrian – the Roman ruler. Palmyrian is the cursive form (column-2) of Aramaic branched off between 250 – 100 B. C. The monumental form (column-1) of this script was developed in first century B. C. according to Prof. Albright. Short inscription is given in the middle. Direction was right to left.

WEST-ASIAN-2


Ph. V.
ARA-MAIC
PALMYRIAN 1 2
HEBREW 1 2
SAMARITAN 1 2 3
Ph. V.
ARA-MAIC
PALMYRIAN 1 2
HEBREW 1 2
SAMARITAN 1 2 3
a
b
g
d
h
v
z
ḥ
t
Y
K
l
m
n
s
3 AYIN
p f
s
ḳ
r
sh
t

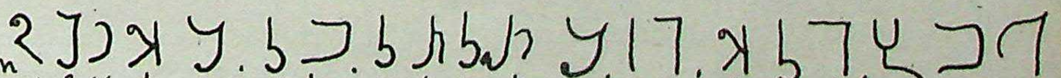
SPECIMENS OF ARAMAIC, PALMYRIAN AND ANCIENT HEBREW ARE GIVEN

I am Washvansha,
son of Apavasha.
(ARAMAIC)



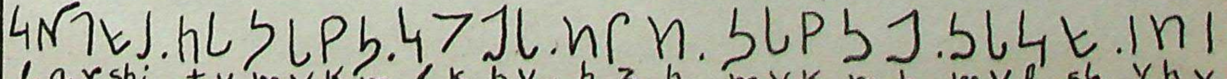
Y shv p a r b sh n v sh v h n a

This tomb
belongs to
Alenatan son
of Kuhelu.



v l Y h k . n b n t n t ae z d h n d r b ḳ

May peace be on this place and on all the places where Israel live.



larshi tv mvḳm lk bv. hzh. mvḳ mb mvl sh YhY

WEST ASIAN.........3

The numbered columns of the opposite page are explained below :—

1. SABAEAN : Sabae or Sabi, a nomadic tribe of Arabia settled in South West Arabia in c. 1200 B. C. They founded a Kingdom of their own by the name of Saba during 7th. century B. C. The script was also developed in 7th. century with only 22 letters to which another 6 were added to make 28. This is also called South Semitic.

The inscriptions of this writing were found by Huber and Enting in Al Ula during 1889. They were deciphered by Gesenius and E. Rodiger. The direction was right to left and ploughing style. At bottom right a scaffolding style of a word 'Ahs' to be read as 'Akhs', meaning 'True-copy' is given.

2., 3. HEJAZ & NEJD : The name of these two scripts was Thamudic. Due to little difference between them, Grimme bifurcated them systematically in 1909. They were named after the two Kingdoms where they were found. Both these Kingdoms were federated in 1932 to become Saudi Arabia.

According to Grimme and F. V. Winnett of Canada both had 28 letters and were invented somewhere in 6th. century B. C. Their direction was right to left and also ploughing style.

4. LIHYANIAN : This script was also found by Huber and Enting from Al Ula and Al Hijra in 1889. Winnett and Al-bright dated it 4th. eentury B. C. Emile Rodiger and Jesenius deciphered and G. Ryckmans published it in 'Reportoire d' epigraphica Semitique Vol. V-VII.

5. NABATAEAN (NABTI) : It was invented from Aramaic in Nabat, a Kingdom founded by a nomadic tribe of Arabia in 169 B. C. with Petra as its capital. This rock city Petra was discovered by Burckhardt in 1809) It was subjugated by Romans in 106 A. D.

In 1873 Charles Doughty, a British traveller went to Al Hijra and prepared copies from the rock-inscriptions. Three bilingnal (Graeco-Nabataean) inscriptions came to light from Aegean Island of Cos.

6. SINAITIC ARABIC : This was engraved on rocks by Arabs of passing caravans through Sinai during 1st. to 3rd. century A. D. It is an offshoot of Nabataen. Copies of the inscriptions were taken by Petrie.

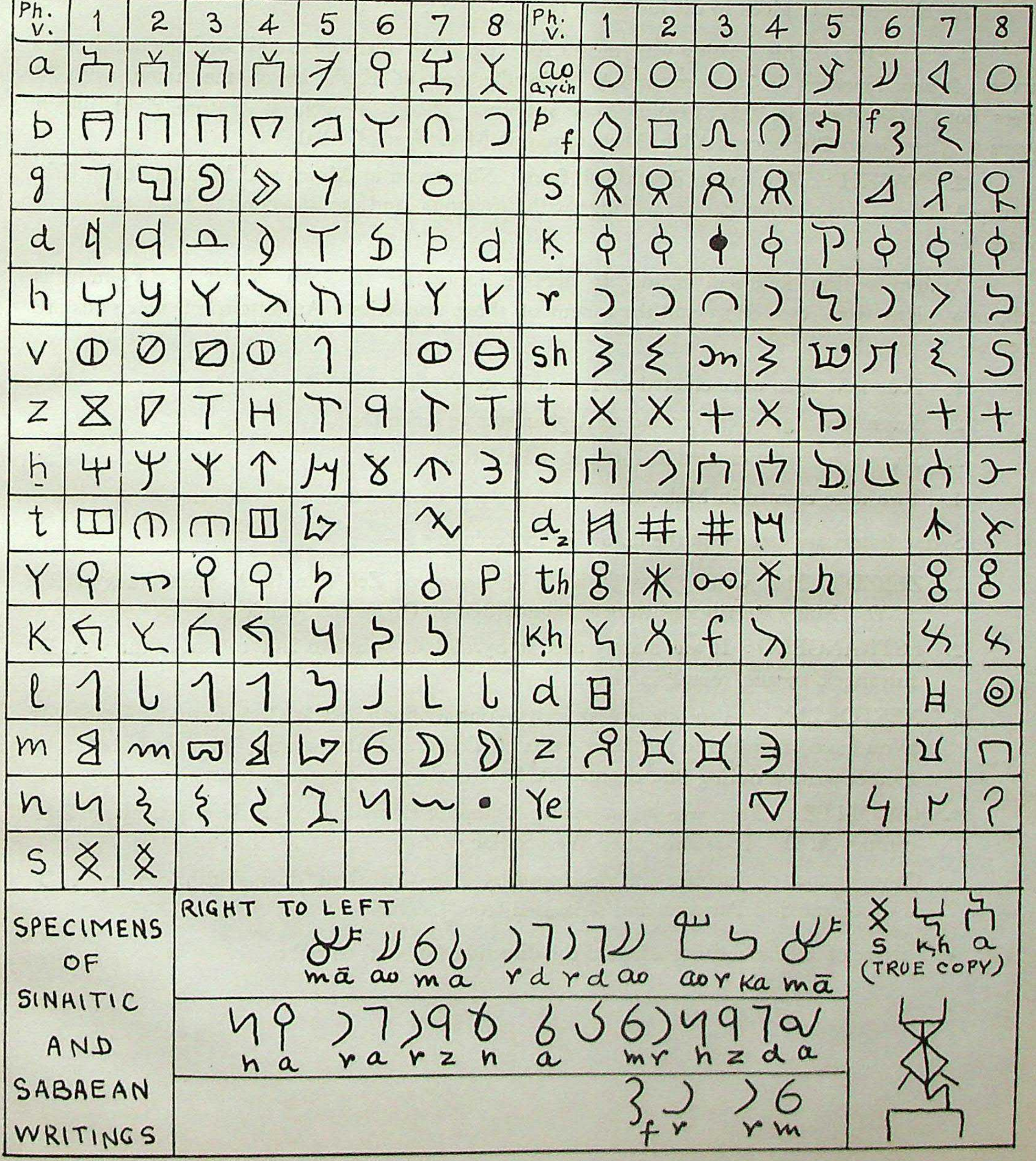
7. SAFAITIC : About 2000 inscriptions of this script were unearthed from Safa (north of Damuscus), hence the name. It was invented in 2nd. century A. D. and was deciphered by Grimme, Halevy etc.

8. UMM-AL-JAMAL : This writing was found in Umm-Al-Jamal (South Arabia), hence the name. It was invented in 4th. century A. D. and was decipherad by Grimme.

A specimen of Sinaitic Arabic is given at the bottom which means :—

"People drink water from tank with their mouth down. People beat their donkeys with a

WEST-ASIAN - 3


Ph. V.
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
a
b
g
d
h
v
z
ḥ
t
Y
K
l
m
n
s
ao ayin
p f
s
ḳ
r
sh
t
s
d z
th
kh
d
z
Ye
SPECIMENS OF SINAITIC AND SABAEAN WRITINGS
RIGHT TO LEFT
mā ao ma r d r d ao ao r ka mā
h a r a r z h a m r h z d a
f r r m
s kh a
(TRUE COPY)

WEST ASIAN.........4

Arabic letters are given in the following two columns :—

1. KUFIC : This writing was meant for engraving on stones and hard metal, thus no curves. It was invented in 7th. century A. D. in the town of Kufa, hence the name, with 28 letters but fell in disuse in 12th. century. A specimen of this is given at bottom right, which means : There is no God except Allah, Muhammad is Messenger of Allah.

2. NASKH : This was developed from Nabataean in Mecca and Medina during 7th. century A. D. It was a more cursive writing with 28 letters and the direction of both was right to left.

Arabic writing followed Islam. It became imperative to learn Arabic for Qoran, as such, new signs were created to suit the tongue of those countries. At bottom left new signs are given :—

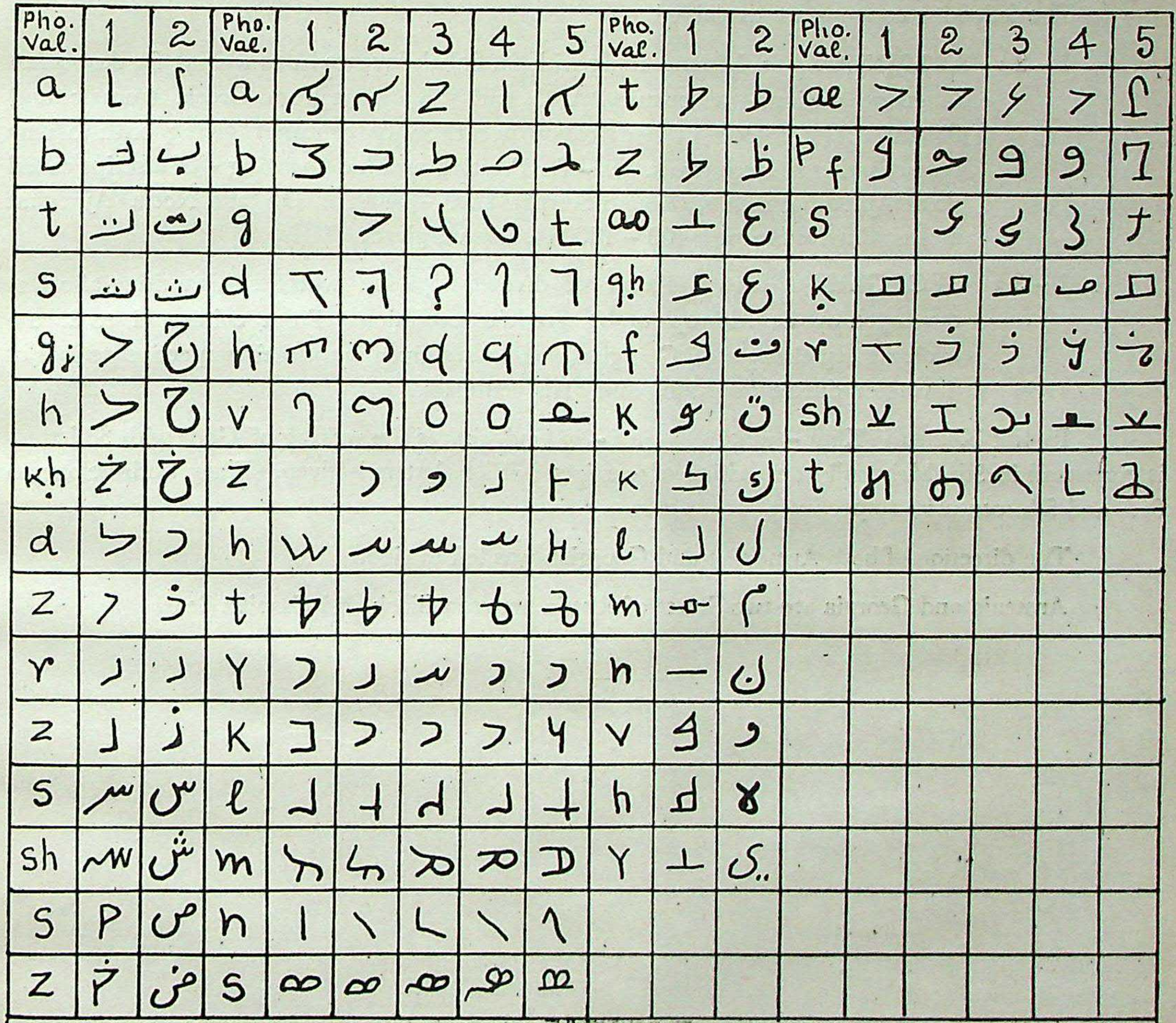
1. Four new signs were created in Iran to write Persian.
2. Seven new signs were created in Afghanistan to write Dari.
3. Seven signs were created in India to write Urdu.
4. Two were created in Malayasia.

Syriac letters are created in the following five columns :—

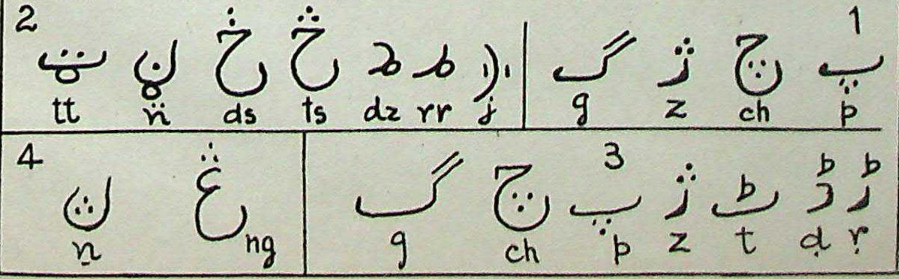
1. ZEBED : This writing was found in the town of Zebed in 1879 dating back to 512 A. D. Many inscriptions were trilingual (Syriac, Greek and Arabic).
2. ESTRANGELO : It was mainly used in Syria dating back to 2nd. to 5th. century A. D. Estrangelo means 'round' in Greek.
3. NESTORIAN : Also known as East Syriac writing. Some Christians and Israeles of Syria have migrated to northern parts of Persia and this writing was separated from mother-writing during 9th. century A. D.
4. JACOBITE : This was invented by Bishop of Edessa, Jacobus Baradius, about 8th. century A. D. It is also called West Syriac writing.
5. Other branch of Jacobite was developed by these Christians during 10th. century A. D. who migrated to Palestine and separated from Jacobus.

All systems of Syriac writing adopted the direction from left to right.

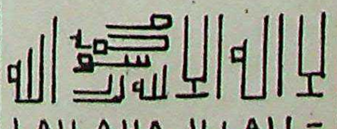
WEST-ASIAN-4


Pho. Val.
1
2
a
b
t
s
g j
h
kḥ
d
z
r
z
s
sh
s
z
Pho. Val.
1
2
3
4
5
a
b
g
d
h
v
z
h
t
Y
K
l
m
n
s
Pho. Val.
1
2
t
z
ao
gh
f
ḳ
k
l
m
n
v
h
Y
Pho. Val.
1
2
3
4
5
ae
p f
s
ḳ
r
sh
t

NEW ARABIC LETTERS FOR NEW SOUNDS


2
tt
n̈
ds
ts
dz
rr
j
1
g
z
ch
p
4
n
ng
3
g
ch
p
z
t
d
r

SPECIMEN-KUFIC



LAILAHA ILLALLAH MUHAMMADUR RASULULLAH

5235

ARMENIAN & GEORGIAN

The following columns are explained :—

1 – 2 : ARMENIAN : St. Mesrop along with St. Sahak invented this writing for Armenian language during 4th. century A. D. with 38 letters from Greek, Aramaic and Pahlavi. The process of modification went on for centuries giving birth to new type of writing. Here two styles – for Printing and hand-writing – of a script called Bolar Ajir, that means, Round Script (1200 – 1400) A. D.) and Notra Ajir, that means, Cursive Script (1400 – 1800 A. D.) are given.

1 – 3 : GEORGIAN : It is a matter of divided opinion whether this writing also was developed by St. Mesrop or by gradual evolution. From column 1. to 3. the evolutionary changes of Georgian writing are given with their respective periods of invention during 5th., 9th., and 11th. centuries.

In 4th. Khutsuri (Khut – writing : Suri – of God, that is the writing of God) with 38 letters is given and in 5th. Mehdruli (the writing of warriors) with 40 letters is given. They both belong to 3rd. and 5th. centuries respectively.

The direction of both Armenian and Georgian was left to right.

Armenia and Georgia are two States of Russia between Black and Caspian Seas.

ARMENIAN & GEORGIAN

The following columns are explained :—

1 – 2 : ARMENIAN : St. Mesrop along with St. Sahak invented this writing for Armenian language during 4th. century A. D. with 38 letters from Greek, Aramaic and Pahlavi. The process of modification went on for centuries giving birth to new type of writing. Here two styles – for Printing and hand-writing – of a script called Bolar Ajir, that means, Round Script (1200 – 1400 A. D.) and Notra Ajir, that means, Cursive Script (1400 – 1800 A. D.) are given.

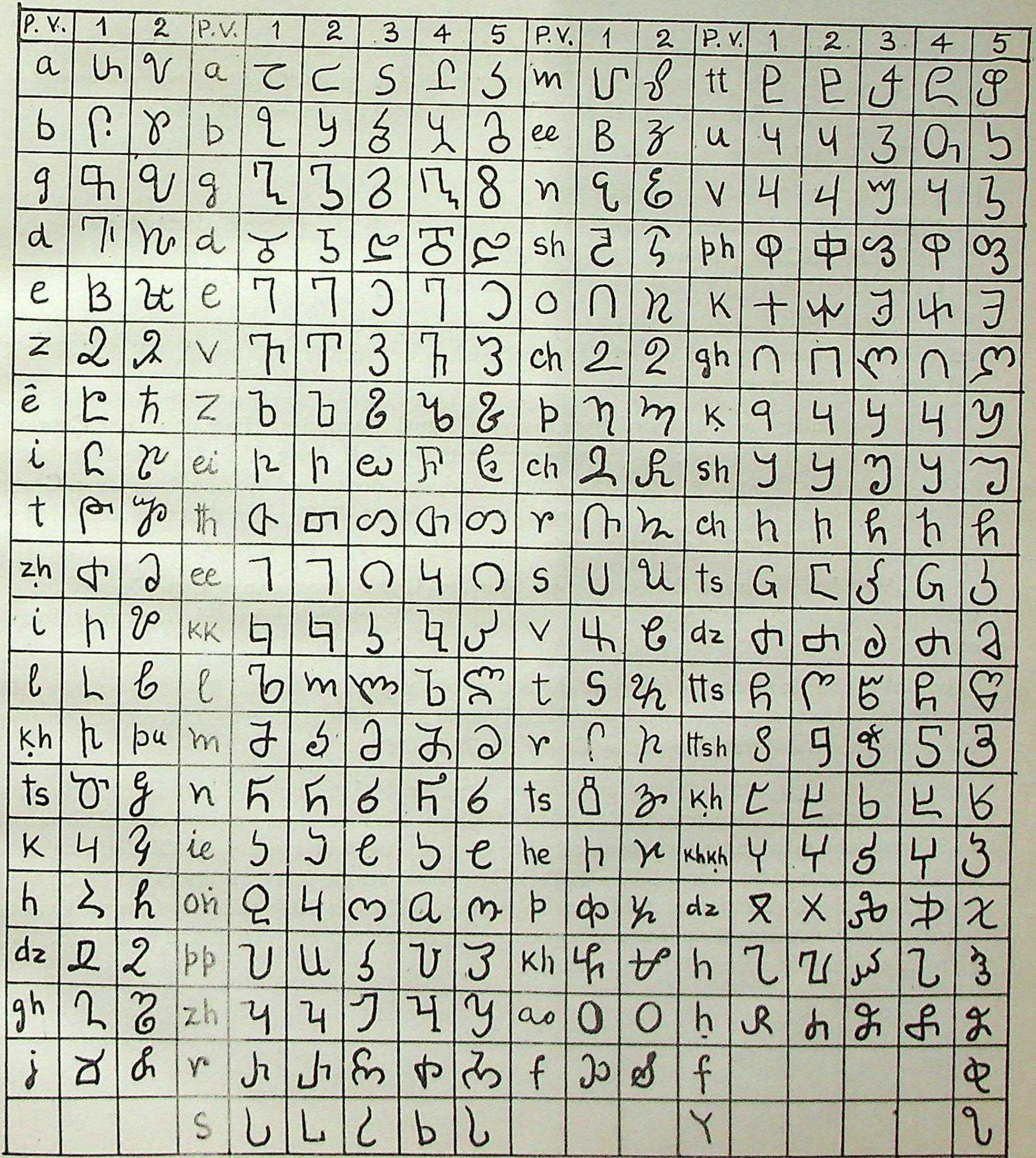
1 – 3 : GEORGIAN : It is a matter of divided opinion whether this writing also was developed by St. Mesrop or by gradual evolution. From column 1. to 3. the evolutionary changes of Georgian writing are given with their respective periods of invention during 5th., 9th., and 11th. centuries.

In 4th. Khutsuri (Khut – writing : Suri – of God, that is the writing of God) with 38 letters is given and in 5th. Mehdruli (the writing of warriors) with 40 letters is given. They both belong to 3rd. and 5th. centuries respectively.

The direction of both Armenian and Georgian was left to right.

Armenia and Georgia are two States of Russia between Black and Caspian Seas.

ARMENIAN & GEORGIAN


P.V. 1 2 P.V. 1 2 3 4 5 P.V. 1 2 P.V. 1 2 3 4 5
a a m tt
b b ee u
g g n v
d d sh ph
e e o K
z v ch gh
ê z p ḳ
i ei ch sh
t th r ch
ẓh ee s ts
i KK v dz
l l t tts
ḳh m r ttsh
ts n ts ḳh
K ie he khḳh
h oṅ p dz
dz pp kh h
gh zh ao ḥ
j r f f
s Y

PRE-HISTORIC GREEK

The civilization of Crete is as old as that of Egypt and Mesopotamia – c 3200 to 1400 B. C.

Thousands of clay-tablets of the Pictographic writing (given at the top) were excavated and deciphered by Arthur Evans (Sir) in 1900. They were dated by him – c. 3200 B.C.

The left side columns are :—

1. LINEAR – A : between 1700 and 1500 B. C.]
2. LINEAR – B : between 1500 and 1400 B. C.]
3. CYPRO-MINOAN : between 1400 and 1100 B. C.]
4. CYPRIOTIC WRITING : between 1100 and 700 B C.]

All these dates are given
by
Arthur Evans.

The middle columns are occupied by the syllabary of Cypriotic writing with five vowels and each consonant has to be read with the sound of each vowel, such as, 'K' as KA, KE, KI. KO, KU and similarly other consonants.

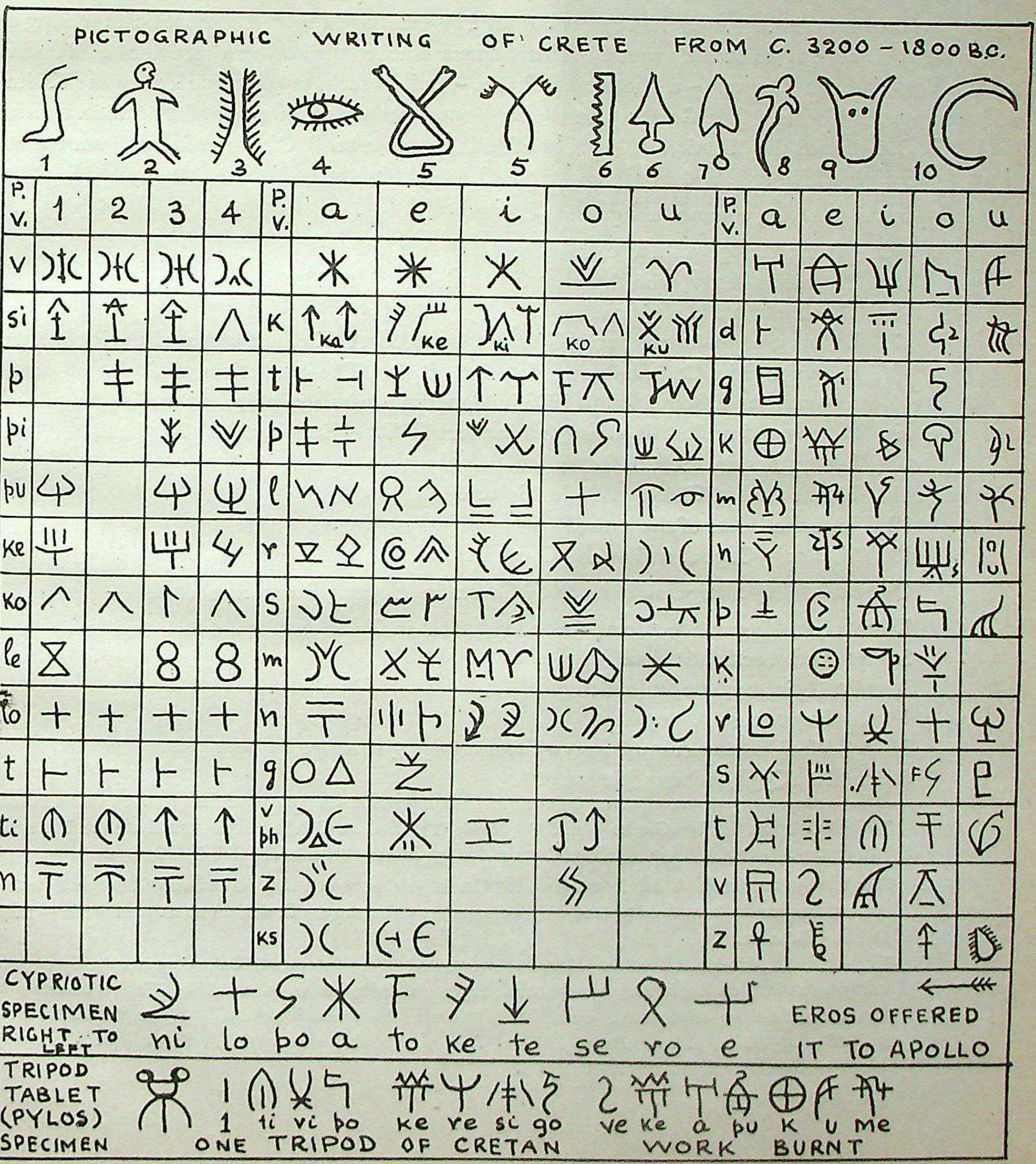
This syllabary was prepared from many bilingual inscriptions (Phoenician and Cypriotic ; Creten – Linear and Cypriotic) which were excavated by R. H Lang, L. P. Di Cesnola and others from Cyprus in the beginning of the 20th. century and were deciphered by Hamilton, Lang, George-Smith and others. The inscriptions belonged to 7th. century B. C. The direction employed was right to left, left to right and ploughing-style.

According to curator Dikaios (Cyprus Museum) Cypro-Mycenaean or Cypro-Minoan writing was employed in Cyprus about 14th. century B. C. Mycenaeans migrated to Cyprus in 15th. century B. C.

A Cypriotic specimen is given at the bottom of the plate, to be read from right to left. This inscription (in part) was excavated by L. P. Di Cesnola from Salamis (modern Enkomi – Cyprus) and it was deciphered and transliterated by George Smith in 1889.

On the right is the Mycenaean syllabary prepared by Ventris and Chadwick in 1956. Crete was destroyed in 14th. century B. C. but its civilization survived on the mainland of Greece due to Mycenaeans who came into contact with Cretans in 15th. century B. C. The culture of Mycenaeans survived between c.1500 – 1100 B. C. The archaeological finds unearthed by C. Blegen in 1952 near Pylos (Peloponnesus--Mycenaea) were published in 1955 and they became known as "Pylos-tablets". Among them was a "Tripod-tablet", deciphered by Ventris and Chadwick. It is given in part as a specimen at the bottom.

PRE-HISTORIC GREEK


PICTOGRAPHIC WRITING OF CRETE FROM C. 3200 – 1800 B.C.
1 2 3 4 5 5 6 6 7 8 9 10
P. V. 1 2 3 4
P. V. a e i o u
P. V. a e i o u
v
si
p
pi
pu
ke
ko
le
lo
t
ti
n
K
Ka Ke Ki KO KU
t
p
l
r
s
m
n
g
V ph
z
KS
d
g
k
m
n
p
K
v
s
t
v
z
CYPRIOTIC SPECIMEN RIGHT TO LEFT
ni lo po a to ke te se ro e
EROS OFFERED IT TO APOLLO
TRIPOD TABLET (PYLOS) SPECIMEN
1 ti vi po ke re si go ve ke a pu k u me
ONE TRIPOD OF CRETAN WORK BURNT

GREEK

Greeks have borrowed 19 letters[1] out of 22 (see page 15) of the Phoenician writing and developed 5 more to suit their tongue. These letters reached the northern province of Boeotia in 13th. B. C. through Cadmus – a Phoenician Prince – and, as such, they became known as "Kadmou Grammata" in Thebes. The Greeks gave vowels[2] to the consonantal writing of Phoenicia by about 1100 B. C. and used the direction of right to left till the 8th. cent. B C., thereafter they started both ways called ploughing-style and finally settled to left to right by the end of the 6th. century B. C.

In the following columns are given :—

1,2. Sinaitic Pictograms and their names.
3,4. Phoenician letters with their names. "Aleph"[3] is the first letter.
5,6. Greek letters and their names.
7. Letters used in Athens during 7th. century B.C. - A. Kirchoff prepared the list of letters.
8. Letters used in Corinth during 6th. cent. B. C. The inscriptions of Corinthic writing were excavated from 1896 to 1986 by Americans who also prepared the list of alphabets.
9. Letters used in Boeotia during 6th. century B. C. — deciphered by Kirchoff.
10. Letters used in Arcadia during 5th. century B. C.
11. Letters used in Classic period of Greece.
12. Phonetic values of the letters.
13. Modern – Capital and small – Greek letters.

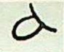
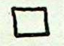
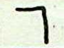
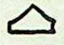
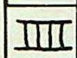
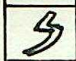
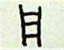
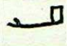
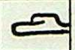
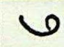
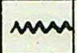
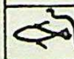
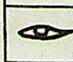
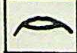
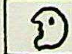
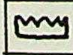
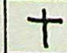
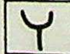
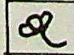
Other following changes were made by Greeks in adopting Phoenician letters :—

1. 'h' (Heth) became 'ee' (eta) – no sound of 'h' in Greek.
2. 'y' (Yod) became 'i' (iota).
3. 'ao' (Ayin) became 'o' (omicron).
4. 'h' (He) became 'e' (epsilon).
5. 'v' (Wav) became 'u' (upsilon) without changing its shape.
6. 'q'-'K' (Qoph) became 'ph' (phi).

---

1. The three letters left by Greeks — 'Heth' (deeper 'h'), because Greeks had no sound of 'h'. The other two were 'se' (samekh) and 'Sin'. Five letters added by Greeks were Eta, Xi, Chi, Psi, Omega.
2. That is why the names of the letters given by Greeks end in vowels and the names of Phoenician letters end in consonants because they had only consonants. Therefore, Aleph became Alpha, Beth — Beta, Daleth – Delta etc.
3. The word 'Aleph' comes from the Akkadian word "Alpu" which means 'Ox', Ox was not only of great utility to ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt and India but was sacred also. Thus it became the first letter of all the scripts of the world. 'Alpu' is taken from a book Manuel D' Epigraphie Akkadienne (p. 293) by Rene Labat, Paris (1948). This rare book was found in the unique library of Mr. Syed Shaukat Ali, Advocate, Allahabad.

GREEK

SINAI 1600 B.C.	NAMES OF PICTURES	Phoenician	HEBREW NAMES 1500. B.C.	GREEK 1200 B.C.	GREEK NAMES	ATHENS	CORINTH	BOETIA	ARCADIA	CLASSIC	Ph. V.	MODERN GREEK	
	OX	𐤀	Aleph	𐤀 A	Alpha	𐤀 A	A	A	A	A	a	A	α
	House	𐤁	Beth	P	Beta	B B	ʃ ʅ	B	β	B	b	B	β
	Camel's Neck	𐤂	Gimel	Γ	Gamma	Λ Λ	< C	Γ	< C	Γ	g	Γ	γ
	Door	Δ	Daleth	Δ ▷	Delta	Δ D	Δ ▷	∇ D	▷	Δ	d	Δ	δ
	Window	𐤄	He	ᖴ	Epsilon	ᖴ ᖴ	ᖴ ⧖	E	ᖴ	E	ê	E	ϵ
	Weapon	I	Zain	Z	Zeta	I	I	I	I	I	z	Z	ζ
	Fence	𐤇	Heth	H	Eta	H 日	日	日	日	H	e	H	η
		⊕	Teth	⊕	Theta	⊕ ⊗	⊗	⊞	⊕	⊙	Th	Θ	θ ϑ
	Forearm	𐤉	Yod	ʅ I ʅ	Iota	ϟ |	ϟ Ɛ	I	I	I	i	I	i
	Palm	𐤊	Kapp	K	Kappa	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	κ
	Goad	6	Lamed	Λ	Lamda	L Γ	Λ	V	Λ	Λ	l	Λ	λ
	Water	𐤌	Mem	Μ M	Mu	M M	M	M	M	M	m	M	μ
	Fish snake	𐤍	Nun	N N	Nu	N N	N	N	N	N	n	N	ν
					Xi		^{kh}+	^{s}+	^{s}+	Ξ	x	Ξ	ξ
	Eye	O	Ayin	O	Omicron	O	O	□	O	O	o	O	o
	Mouth	)	Pe	C Γ	Pi	Γ Γ	Γ Γ	⊓	Π	Π	p	Π	π
	Head	𐤓	Resh	P P	Rho	P R	P	P	R	P	r	P	ρ
	Teeth	W	Shin sage	ξ	Sigma	Z ξ	M	ξ	ξ	ξ	s	Σ	os
	Sign	+	Tav	+	Tau	T	T	T	T	T	t	T	τ
	Hook	Y	Wav	Y V	Upsilon	V Y	V Y	V Y	V	Y	u	Υ	υ
	Knot	ø	Qoph	Φ Ϙ	Phi	Φ	Φ Φ	Φ		Φ	ph	Φ	φ
					Chi	^{K} Ϙ	Ϙ		^{K} Ϙ	G	kh	X	χ
		丰	Se (Samekh)		Psi	^{f} F F	Ψ Ψ	V Ψ	⁎	Ψ	ps	Ψ	ψ
		μ	sin		Omega	^{s} 丰	^{s} 丰	f F		Ω	o	Ω	ω

ITALIAN

The letters of Greece travelled with Greeks to Italy and were employed by Etruscans between 8th. and 7th. century B.C. These Greek letters were called Proto-Tyrrhenian and Pelasgian by different scholars. In this process of adoption Etruscans did not employ "B – D – O – X" of Greek, according to Hammerstrom.

Etruscans probably migrated from Lydia in 8th. century B. C. and settled on the western coast of mid-Italy. This piece of land became known as Etruria. According to Dionysius – a historian of 1st. century B. C. Etruscans were the ancient people of Italy and according to other scholars they were either Caucasians or Asians.

Romans, who were living in south – a place called Latium and their language was Latin. They learnt the art of writing from Etruscans who sudjugated them in 7th century B. C. but in turn Romans destroyed Etruscans finally in 3rd. century B. C.

In the following columns are given :—

1. GREEK (Proto – Tyrrhenian) ALPHABETS : These alphabets were incised on vases, dishes and rocks.

2. ETRUSCAN : About 9000 fragmentary and few large inscriptions of this writing were unearthed. They were deciphered by Herbig, Bugge, Torp and Goldmann and published by Pauli in 1893 and by G. Buonamici in 1932.

3. UMBRIAN : People living on the eastern coast of Italy and speaking Umbrian language were called Umbri in 6th. century B. C. Their chief city was Iguvium (modern Gubbio). In 1444 nine tablets of this writing were found here. They were first published in 1724 and again in 1928 by Muller in "Die Etrusker". Karl Lepsius gave phonetic value to these alphabets in his essay "De Tabalius Eugubinis – 1833". This writing was invented in 6th. century B. C. from Etruscan.

4. OSCAN : Oscans were living in southern Italy in 5th. century B. C. They were called by Romans "Osci" and their language "Lingua". About 200 inscriptions of this script were found in Compania.

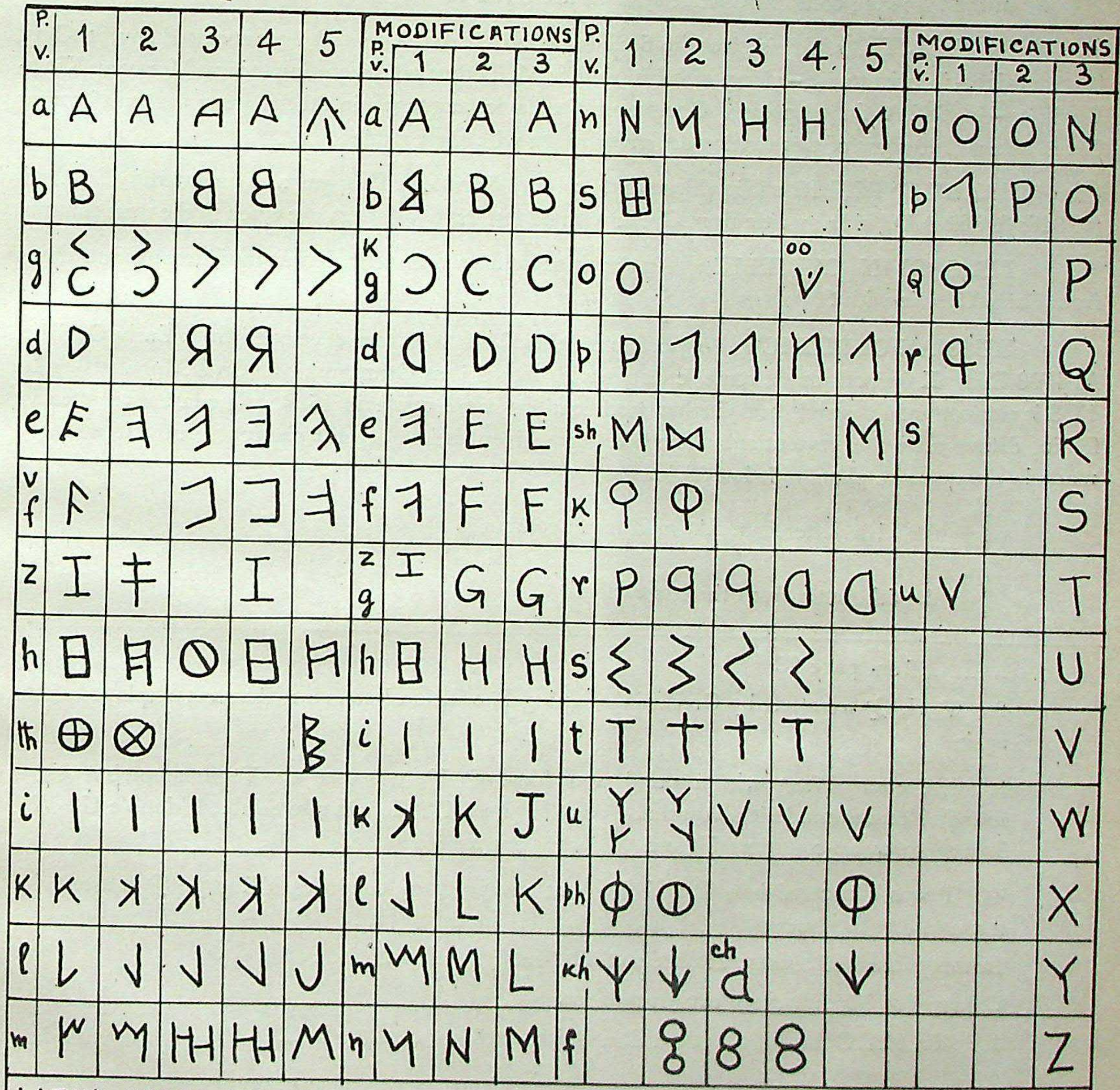
5. BOLZANO : The land of southern Alps was called Raetia in olden days. The people were culturally attached to Etruscans. The inscriptions of this writing were found in Bolzano, hence the name. This was invented in 3rd. century B. C. from Etruscan. The list of alphabets was prepared by M. Lejeune in 1857.

Modifications made by Romans in adopting the Greek and Etruscan alphabets for their Latin script are given below :—

1. 'G' was replaced by 'C' with a sound of 'K' and it was given the place of 'Z', 'Z' was first expelled by Romans in 3rd. century B. C. and was embraced again but it was placed at the end.

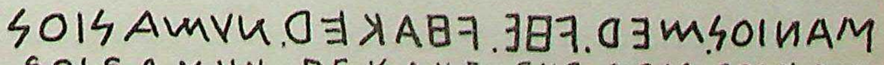
see page 30..............

ITALIAN


P. V.
1
2
3
4
5
MODIFICATIONS
P. V.
1
2
3
P. V.
1
2
3
4
5
MODIFICATIONS
P. V.
1
2
3
a b g d e v f z h th i k l m
a b K g d e f z g h i k l m n
n s o p sh K r s t u ph kh f
o p q r s u
ch
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

LATIN INSCRIPTION INCISED ON A FIBULA - DATING 700 B.C. UNEARTHED - 1926 IN PALESTRINA - ITALY.

-RIGHT To LEFT.



SOISAMUN DEKAHF EHF DEM SOINAM

MEANING:- MANIUS MADE ME FOR NUMERIUS

OTHER EUROPEAN...... 1

In the following columns Cyrilllc systems are given :—

GLAGOLITIC : It is given in 6 columns on the left side. It was invented by St. Cyril (Constantine – in private life – along with his brother Methodius who were invited by Moravian King–Rostislav – in 862 A. D. to preach Christianity in Slavic language) in 9th. century by transforming Greek letters. 40 signs of this writing are given along with their names.

EARLY CYRILLIC : (in the second column from left) This was also invented by St. Cyril (b. 826; d. 869 A.D.) side by side from Greek with 42 letters, two letters are given in the next column.

BULGARIAN CYRILLIC : (in the third column from left) It was modified by Bulgarians from Early Cyrillic with 30 letters.

RUSSIAN CYRILLIC : (on extreme right) This was also developed from Early Cyrillic. In 1708 Elias Koievitch made some changes and named it as Grazdanskaya (Civil Alphabets). In 1753 it was commonly used but further modifications were made in 1618. The last letter "feeta" fell in disuse after the revolution. The two signs given below are the correct form but wrongly made in the opposite plate. It has 33 letters.

Й the 11th. letter from 'A' in Russian column.

Ы the 6th. letter from the letter "feeta".

............from page 28

2. 'F, H, Q' were left by Greeks in adopting Phoenician letters but Romans employed them again.

3. The letter 'Wav' with a sound and shape of 'V' was used as 'V' in shape but 'U' in sound. Romans made it a vowel and rounded it as 'U'. It was also doubled (double U=W). In Scandinavian countries 'V' and 'W' are taken as one letter.

4. 'I' was bifurcated into 'I' and 'J', but now in many countries of Euorpe 'J' is used with a sound of 'Ya' but in English it is used as in 'Jackal or Jar'.

In this process of change 21 letters of Old-Latin became 26 today.

Columns of Modifications are given below :—

1. ARCHAIC LATIN : used during 5th. and 4th. century B. C.
2. CLASSIC LATIN.
3. MODERN ROMAN : The given Phonetic Value will not apply for this column.

At the bottom of the front page a specimen of Latin from right to left is given. This direction was changed to left to right after 6th. century B. C. This inscription was incised on a Fibula discovered from Praeneste (modern Palestrina) in Italy dating 7th. century B. C.

OTHER EUROPEAN - 1

P.V.	SIGN	NAME	P.V.	SIGN	NAME	P.V.	SIGN	P.V.	SIGN	P.V.	SIGN	P.V.	SIGN	P.V.	SIGN	NAME	P.V.	SIGN	NAME
a	Ⰰ	az	u	Ⱆ	uk	a	а	u	У	a	А	p	П	a	А	ae	r	Р	er
b	Ⰱ	buky	f	Ⱇ	fivt	b	Б	f	Ф	b	Б	r	Р	b	Б	beh	s	С	es
v	Ⰲ	vedi	kh	Ⱈ	kher	v	В	kh	Х	v	В	s	С	v	В	veh	t	Т	teh
g	Ⰳ	glagol	ao	Ⱉ	ot	g	Г	ao	Ѡ	g	Г	th	Т	g	Г	geh	u	У	u
d	Ⰴ	dobro	sht	Ⱋ	shta	d	Д	st	Щ	d	Д	u	У	d	Д	deh	f	Ф	ef
e	Ⰵ	est	tsi	Ⱌ	tsi	e	Є	ts	Ц	e	Е	f	Ф	Y	Е	Ye	kh	Х	khah
zh	Ⰶ	zhivet	ch	Ⱍ	chrv	zh	Ж	tsh	Ч	j zh	Ж	kh	Х	Ya	Ё	Yo	ts	Ц	tsch
dz	Ⰷ	zelo	sh	Ⱎ	sha	dz	Ѕ	sh	Ш	z	З	ts	Ц	j	Ж	jeh	ch	Ч	cheh
z	Ⰸ	zendya	Y	Ⱏ	Yer	z	З	ou	Ъ	i	И	tsh	Ч	z	З	ze	sh	Ш	shah
i	Ⰹ	izhe	Y	ⰟⰊ	Yery	i	И	Yi	ЪІ	y	Й	sh	Ш	i	Н	i	sheh	Щ	sheheh
i	Ⰼ	i	Ya	Ⱑ	Yat	Y	І	Yei	ЪН	k	К	sht	Щ	i	Н	i		Ъ	hard sign
k	Ⰽ	kako	Ye	Ⱖ	Ye	k	К	ai	Ѣ	l	Л	ah	Ъ	k	К	kah	e	Ѣ	hard e
l	Ⰾ	lyudy	eng	Ⱔ	ens	l	Л	ju	Ю	m	М	yh	Ь	l	Л	el		Ь	soft sign
m	Ⰿ	myslite	ong	Ⱘ	ons	m	М	ja	Ꙗ	n	Н	Yu	Ю	m	М	em	e	Э	e
n	Ⱀ	nash	yeng	Ⱗ	Yens	n	N	je	Ѥ	o	О	yah	Я	n	Н	en	Yu	Ю	Yu
o	Ⱁ	on	Yong	Ⱙ	Yons	o	О	jai	Ѧ	Sch	Ѱ			o	О	o	Ya	Я	Ya
p	Ⱂ	pokoy	ph	Ⱚ	phah	p	П	jay	Ѧ	pah	Ⱚ			p	П	peh	fa	Θ	feeta
r	Ⱃ	rtsi	Y	ⰟⰉ		r	Р	āh	Ѫ										
s	Ⱄ	slovo	Yea	ⰟⰟ		s	С	Ye	Ѩ										
t	Ⱅ	turdo	yei	Ⱐ	Yevek	t	Т	jeh	Ѭ										

SPECIMEN OF RUSSIAN

Э́то торго́вый центр.

That is industrial centre.

OTHER EUROPEAN.........2

GOTHIC : This was invented in 4th. century A D. by Ulfilas or Wulfilas, a Christian missionary for Visigoths (Western Goths settled in a place where now Bulgaria stands). 19 letters were taken from Greek, 6 letters from Latin and 2 from Runic alphabets to make 29 of this script.

ANCIENT HUNGARIAN : The ancient name of Hungary was Pannonia. It was a melting pot of different tribes. The Kingdom of Hungary was founded by Maggyars in the last decade of 8th. century A.D. It was created in 9th. century. An inscription in part of this script was first discovered by a Hungarian traveller Hans Deruschwan (1594-1669) in 1515 in Constantinople. It was deciphered by J. Thelegdi in 1576. The direction was both right to left and left to right. At the bottom a specimen in part of this script is given with its transliteration, which means "Keteji Shekel Temas wrote – Turki Emperor has invaded with hundred horses from here".

BARDIC : Some Druids – the priestly class of Celtic-Indo-European-group – migrated to western parts of England from Ireland and became known as Bards. They have preserved their writing with great secrecy. The period of its invention is not known. Presumably it is invented from Runic script.

IBERIAN : Iberians were living by the side of Iberus (Ibao) river in Spain. This writing was invented somewhere during 500 – 300 B. C. The direction was right to left. It has 30 letters (25 consonants + 5 vowels).

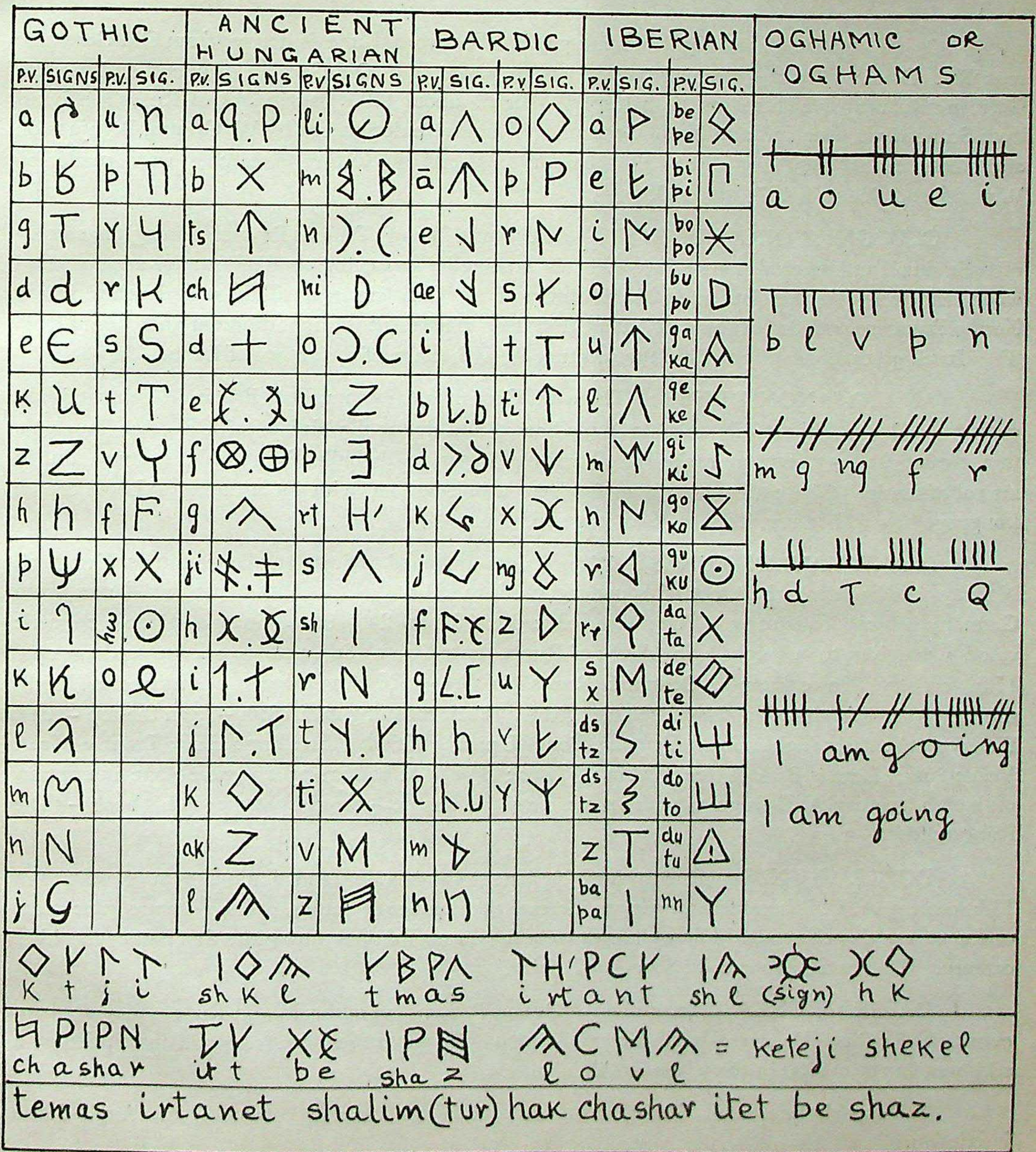
Many inscriptions were excavated between 1933-36. Few of them were published in 1942 by Diputacion Provincial de Valencia Professor Manuel Gomez Moreno deciphered few in 1925. According to few scholars this was invented from Phoenician or Carthagian alphabets.

Main characteristics of this script are :—

1. No distinction between "B and P", "G and K".
2. No signs for "F, H, V", instead there are two new signs for "RR" and "NN".

OGHAMS : This writing was named after the Celtic God-Oghma. It was created by Druids of southern Ireland in 4th. century A. D. with 20 letters – the list of which was prepared by Arbois de Jubain Ville in 1881. This writing was replaced by Latin in 650 A. D. About 360 inscriptions were found in Britain and 300 in Ireland.

OTHER EUROPEAN - 2



GOTHIC

P.V.	SIGNS	P.V.	SIG.
a	↱	u	∩
b	Ƃ	þ	Π
g	T	Y	Ч
d	d	r	K
e	Є	s	S
k̥	u	t	T
z	Z	v	Y
h	h	f	F
þ	ψ	x	X
i	ʅ	hw	⊙
k	ƙ	o	ℓ
l	λ		
m	M		
n	N		
j	G		

ANCIENT HUNGARIAN

P.V.	SIGNS	P.V.	SIGNS
a	q.P	li	⊘
b	X	m	ẞ.B
ts	↑	n	).(
ch	Ч	ni	D
d	+	o	Ɔ.C
e	Ꭓ.Ꭓ	u	Z
f	⊗.⊕	þ	Ǝ
g	⋀	rt	H′
ji	‡.‡	s	∧
h	X.X	sh	|
i	1.†	r	N
j	Ր.T	t	Y.Y
k	◇	ti	X
ak	Z	v	M
l	⋀	z	ℍ

BARDIC

P.V.	SIG.	P.V.	SIG.
a	∧	o	◇
ā	ᛦ	þ	P
e	√	r	N
ae	Y	s	ɤ
i	|	t	T
b	ʟ.b	ti	↑
d	>.δ	v	↓
k	ʖ	x	X
j	∠	ng	ȣ
f	F.ɤ	z	D
g	L.[	u	Y
h	h	v	ŧ
l	ʟ.U	y	Ψ
m	ɤ		
n	∩		

IBERIAN

P.V.	SIG.	P.V.	SIG.
a	P	be pe	ᛟ
e	ŧ	bi pi	Г
i	K	bo po	✳
o	H	bu pu	D
u	↑	ga ka	Ѧ
l	∧	ge ke	ᐸ
m	Ѱ	gi ki	ʃ
n	N	go ko	⧗
r	◁	gu ku	⊙
rr	♀	da ta	X
s x	M	de te	◈
ds tz	Ϛ	di ti	Ψ
ds tz	ʒ	do to	Ш
z	T	du tu	Δ
ba pa	|	nn	Y

OGHAMIC OR OGHAMS

a o u e i

b l v þ n

m g ng f r

h d T c Q

I am going

I am going

K t j i sh K l t m a s i rt a n t sh l (sign) h K

ch a sha r it t b e sha z l o v l = keteji shekel

temas irtanet shalim(tur) hak chashar itet be shaz.

OTHER EUROPEAN.........3

On the opposite page only Runes are given. The word 'Rune' is derived from Old Germanic root 'Ru', Gothic 'Runa' – meaning "mysterious or secret". In Old German 'Runen' and modern German 'Ruanen' which means "to whisper". In all about 4000 inscriptions of Runes are found from Scandinavia, England and North Germany. They were deciphered by W. Grimm, Brynjulfsson and others in the beginning of the 19th. century. Thereafter further researches were made by Wimmer and Bugge in 1874 and 1905.

OLD GERMANIC RUNES : The different tribes of Teutons for maintaining the secrecy of their rituals and magical powers invented this writing by scratching on tomb-stones, armoury and wood, somewhere in the 1st. and 2nd. centuries of the Christian era This was developed from North Etruscan writing. It has 24 letters and their placement is quite different and begins from 'F'. It fell gradually in disuse from 9th. century A. D. because of the arrival of Latin.

ANGLO-SAXON RUNES : The west Germanic tribes invaded Britain in 5th. and 6th. century A. D. In Britain they became Anglo-Saxons and due to the fusion with another language they created 9 more signs to make 33. Their use began to dwindle from 10th. century due to arrival of Latin. The earliest inscription is given at the bottom with its meaning ("Loom of the Language" by F. Bodmer, London-1943, page 265).

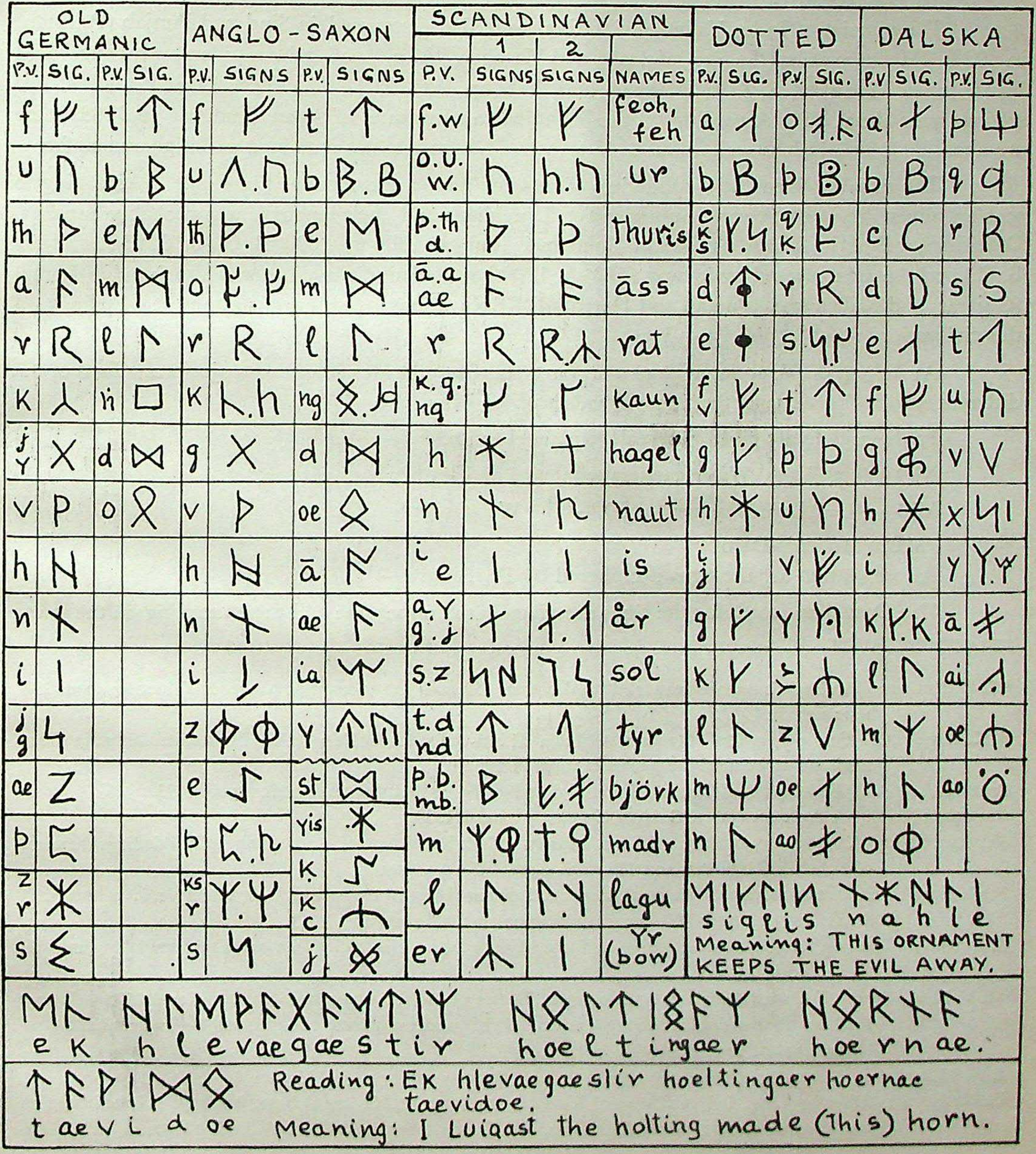
SCANDINAVIAN RUNES : When Runes travelled to Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Norway and Sweden) the stock of sound reached to 30 and 40. Thus Teutonic Runes from Germany became inadequate. They were reduced to 16 from 24 in 9th. century and more phonetic values were given to one sign. The disuse of Runes started from 13th. century but lingered on upto 17th. century. In column-1, Denmark Runes, in Col.-2, Norway-Sweden Runes and in Col. 3, the names in Scandinavian language are given. Their meaning in English -- from the top -- are : First (cattle) ; After (light rain) ; Demon ; Bone (Upper) ; Climb ; Swelling ; Hail ; Trouble ; Ice ; Year ; Sun ; Lead ; Bark of tree ; Man ; Water ; Bow. At bottom-right a grave-stone inscription of the 8th. century A. D is given with its meaning. It was deciphered by Arntz in his book -- "Die Runenschrift" -- page 74.

DOTTED RUNES : Due to introduction of Christianity and Latin system of writing in 10th. century A. D. it became necessary to increase the number of letters. The system of placement of Runes was also changed. These changes were fully accomplished during the first half of the 13th. century. They were also called "Stungnar Runir".

DALSKA RUNES : According to O. von Friesen, an authority on Runes, they are used even today in Ovre Dalarne -- a district of Sweden -- for secret messages. A small inscription on a stick was found in 1750 in the village of Alfdalan.

Below right is a small Scandinavian inscription and at the bottom is an Anglo-Saxon inscription.

OTHER EUROPEAN - 3



OLD GERMANIC				ANGLO-SAXON				SCANDINAVIAN				DOTTED				DALSKA			
									1	2									
P.V.	SIG.	P.V.	SIG.	P.V.	SIGNS	P.V.	SIGNS	P.V.	SIGNS	SIGNS	NAMES	P.V.	SIG.	P.V.	SIG.	P.V.	SIG.	P.V.	SIG.
f	ᚠ	t	ᛏ	f	ᚠ	t	ᛏ	f.w	ᚠ	ᚠ	feoh, feh	a	ᛆ	o	ᛆ.ᚮ	a	ᛆ	þ	Ш
u	ᚢ	b	ᛒ	u	Λ.ᚢ	b	ᛒ.B	o.u. w.	ᚢ	h.ᚢ	ur	b	B	þ	ᛔ	b	B	q	q
th	ᚦ	e	ᛖ	th	ᚦ.ᚦ	e	ᛖ	þ.th d.	ᚦ	ᚦ	thuris	c k s	ᚴ.ᛋ	q k	ᛩ	c	C	r	R
a	ᚨ	m	ᛗ	o	ᚩ.ᚩ	m	ᛞ	ā.a ae	ᚨ	ᚬ	āss	d	ᛑ	r	R	d	D	s	S
r	ᚱ	l	ᛚ	r	ᚱ	l	ᛚ	r	ᚱ	ᚱ.ᛦ	rat	e	ᛂ	s	ᛋ.ᛌ	e	ᛆ	t	ᛐ
k	ᛦ	ng	□	k	ᚳ.ᚳ	ng	ᛝ.ᛄ	k.g. ng	ᚴ	ᚴ	kaun	f v	ᚠ	t	ᛏ	f	ᚠ	u	ᚢ
j Y	ᚷ	d	ᛞ	g	ᚷ	d	ᛞ	h	ᚼ	ᚽ	hagel	g	ᚵ	þ	ᚦ	g	ꝭ	v	V
v	ᚹ	o	ᛟ	v	ᚹ	oe	ᛟ	n	ᚾ	ᚿ	naut	h	ᚼ	u	ᚢ	h	ᚼ	x	ᛋᛁ
h	ᚺ			h	ᚻ	ā	ᚪ	i e	ᛁ	ᛁ	is	i j	ᛁ	v	ᚡ	i	ᛁ	y	ᛦ.ᛘ
n	ᚾ			n	ᚾ	ae	ᚫ	a.Y g.j	ᛅ	ᛅ.ᛆ	år	g	ᚵ	Y	ᚤ	k	ᚴ.K	ā	ᚯ
i	ᛁ			i	ᛁ	ia	ᛡ	s.z	ᛋ ᛊ	ᛙ ᛌ	sol	k	ᚴ	y r	ᛨ	l	ᛚ	ai	ᛆ
j g	ᛃ			z	Φ.Φ	Y	ᛏ.ᚣ	t.d nd	ᛏ	ᛐ	tyr	l	ᛚ	z	V	m	ᛘ	oe	ᛨ
ae	Z			e	ᛇ	st	ᛥ	p.b. mb.	ᛒ	ᛓ.ᚯ	björk	m	ᛘ	oe	ᚯ	h	ᚿ	ao	Ö
p	ᛈ			p	ᛈ.ᛈ	Yis K̩	ᛡ ᛤ	m	ᛘ.Φ	ᛙ.♀	madr	n	ᚿ	ao	ᛯ	o	Φ		
z r	ᛯ			ks r	ᛉ.ᛉ	K C	ᛣ	l	ᛚ	ᛚ.ᛘ	lagu	ᛘᛁᚴᛚᛁᚿ ᚾᚼᚺᛚᛁ siglis nahle Meaning: THIS ORNAMENT KEEPS THE EVIL AWAY.							
s	ᛊ			s	ᛋ	j	ᛄ	er	ᛦ	ᛁ	Yr (bow)								

ᛖᚲ ᚺᛚᛖᚹᚨᚷᚨᛉᛏᛁᛉ ᚺᛟᛚᛏᛁᛝᚨᛉ ᚺᛟᚱᚾᚨ

e k h l e vae gae s t i r h oe l t i ngae r h oe r n ae.

ᛏᚨᚹᛁᛞᛟ

t ae v i d oe

Reading: EK hlevaegaeslir hoeltingaer hoernac taevidoe.

Meaning: I Luiqast the holting made (This) horn.

INDUS VALLEY

The remains of Indus-Valley civilisation were first discovered in Sind and Punjab (Pakistan) in 1922. Mohenjo-Daro (the city of dead) and Harappa (the city of golden pillars) were excavated by Sir Johan Marshall, E. J. H. Mackay and Vats up to 1931. The signs found on seals and sealings were about 300. According to the Scandinavian Institute of Asian Studies (Jl. 1969) there are about 2000 inscriptions with about 9147 signs. This script has remained undeciphered so far.

The racial problem of the founders of this civilisation has remained insoluble According to scholars either they were Aryans, Sumerians or Dravidians and their language was probably Sanskrit, Dravidian or Prakrit. This civilisation flourished from c. 2800 to 1800 B. C. (or C. 2500 to 1500 B. C.) and the area covered by it was 1500 to 1100 kms. This civilization was also found in Lothal (Gujarat) and Kalibangan (Punjab and Haryana). Excavations are going on to unearth new finds of this civilization.

At the top of the opposite page is a chart showing the result of the conjectural efforts of the different scholars* evaluating the phonetic values of the signs.

In the middle are given four seals explained as under :—

MD—40 and 41 = Water carriers with caps and leather bags with water.

MD—46. = Music Teacher. MD. -- 51 = Water supply Officer.

(MD = Mohenjo-Daro)

At the bottom are the signs deciphered by Fr. Heras :—

The Dravidian words for the signs are given in the upper line and their meanings in the lower line opposite to each sign.

*C. R. Hunter : An English scholar who tried to decipher 750 seals and discovered phonetic Values of about 234 basic signs in 1930.

S. K. Ray : An officer of the Craft Museum, All India Handi-crafts Board, New Delhi. He studied this script from 1935 and accertained the phonetic valves in 1962.

Pran Nath : A Professor (late) of Banaras Hindu University tried to decipher on Tantrik signs in 1930.

Rajmohan Nath : A Professor (ex) of Gauhati University tried in 1933.

Shankaranand : A missionary of Rama Krishna Mission - Calcutta also tried ; according to his findings there are 400 signs, 118 ligatures and 469 word-signs.

Fateh Singh : Ex-Director Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur (India). He believes that it was Vedic culture with Sanskrit as language. He deciphered more than 2000 seals upto 1963.

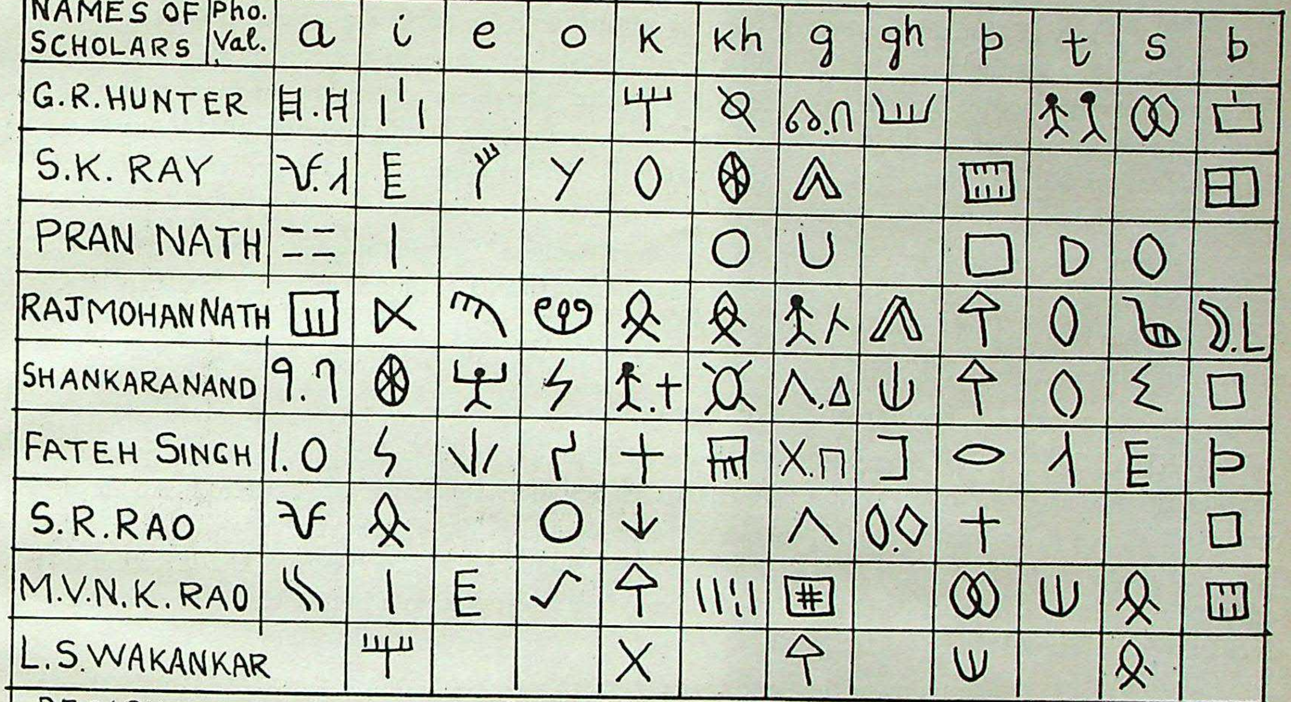
S. R. Rao : - Director, Archaeological Survey of India, Aurangabad. His findings are based on Semitic system. He left the work in 1969.

M. V. N. K. Rao : Technical Assistant, Archaeological Survey of India, Aurangabad. He deciphered 1675 seals upto 1968 on the basis of acrophony system. It was a mixed culture of Egypt and Vedic-period and languages were Prakrit and Sanskrit.

L. S. Wakankar : A member of "Script Study Group" of Bombay who tried in 1969.

Father Heras : Director (Late), Indian Historical Research Institute, St. Xaviers College, Bombay. He believed that the original settlers were Dravidians. He deciphered 1800 seals and bifurcated 290 ligatures. Opposite each sign pronunciation in upper line and its meaning in lower line are given.

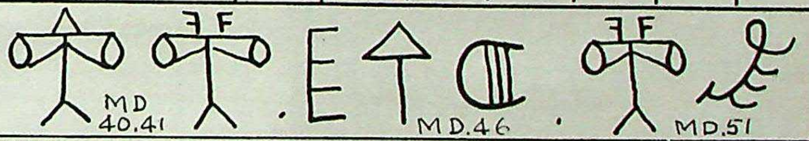
INDUS VALLEY'S



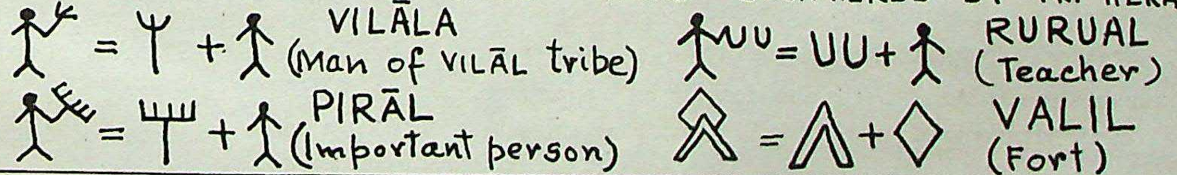
NAMES OF SCHOLARS	Pho. Val.	a	i	e	o	k	kh	g	gh	p	t	s	b
G.R.HUNTER													
S.K. RAY													
PRAN NATH													
RAJMOHAN NATH													
SHANKARANAND													
FATEH SINGH													
S.R.RAO													
M.V.N.K.RAO													
L.S.WAKANKAR													

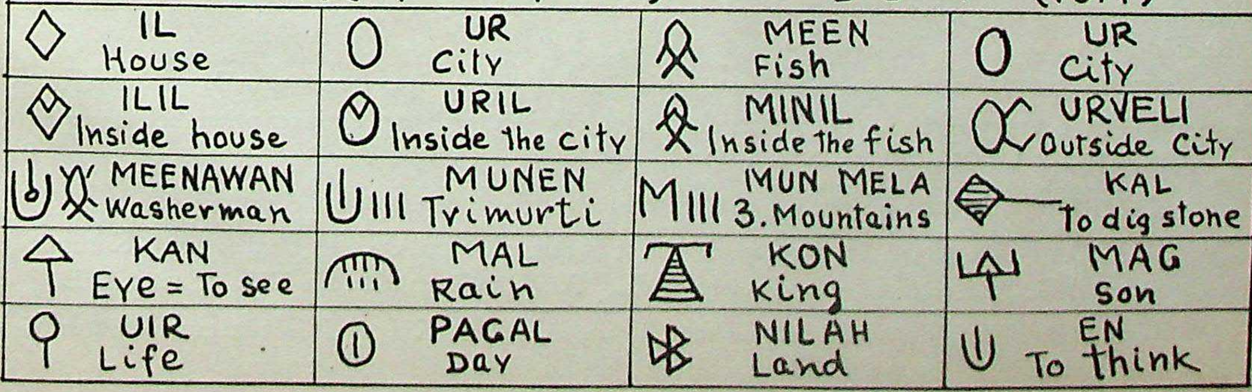
DECIPHERED BY

FLINDERS PETRIE


MD 40.41
MD.46
MD.51

LIGATURED AND SEPARATED SIGNS DECIPHERED BY FR. HERAS


VILĀLA
(Man of VILĀL tribe)
RURUAL
(Teacher)
PIRĀL
(Important person)
VALIL
(Fort)



IL House	UR City	MEEN Fish	UR City
ILIL Inside house	URIL Inside the city	MINIL Inside the fish	URVELI Outside City
MEENAWAN Washerman	MUNEN Trimurti	MUN MELA 3. Mountains	KAL To dig stone
KAN Eye = To see	MAL Rain	KON King	MAG Son
UIR Life	PAGAL Day	NILAH Land	EN To think

OLD INDIAN

The history of Indian Systems of writing begins with the appearance of Asoka's edicts in 3rd. century B. C. engraved on rocks and pillars in the most phonetically-perfect script of Brahmi. This sudden appearance of Brahmi has baffled and created a problem to the scholars for probing into an unbridgeable gap between the end of Indus-Valley civilization (18th. century B. C.) and the birth of Brahmi (3rd. century B. C.) which became the mother script of all the Indian, South-East-Asian, Himalayan and few Mongolian systems of writing.

It is unbelieveable that a country (India) which evolved high philosophies about 1500 B. C., recited and written hundreds of religious scriptures and unparallel grammar in c. 6th. century B. C (by Panini) has remained without any system of writing. Quite likely the books were written on some perishable matter which could not be preserved in tropical climate.

In the columns of the opposite page the following scripts are given :—

KHAROSHTI : The extreme north-western part of India where now Afghanistan and Pakistan are situtated was once peopled by Bactrians Scythians, Persians and Indians. About 5th. century B. C. when Aramaic became too cumbersome for daily use by traders they developed this Kharoshti (Khara = Donkey ; Oshti = lips, the script similar to donkey's lips). Its direction was right to left with 38 letters along with the Indian system of placement of letters. It was finally deciphered by James Prinsep in 1837.

BRAHMI : The name of this writing was probably derived from the name of Creator-God-Brahma. The letters are taken from the rock of Asoka's edicts in Girnar (Junagadh – Western India) which he got engraved in 257 B. C.. It was finally deciphered by James Prinsep in 1838. The direction of all other systems in India remained from left to right except Urdu. The origin is not known. The Western scholars believe that it was invented from Semitic scripts and the Indian scholars attribute to Indus-Valley signs.

GUPTA : Samdura Gupta of Gupta ,Dynasty ruled India during 335 – 375 A. D. hence the name of the writing. It was also deciphered by James Prinsep in 1838.

BOX-HEADED : Prithvi Sen – II of Vakatak Dynasty ruled the central part of India during the later half of the 5th. century A. D. Some inscriptions of this script were found belonging to the said king.

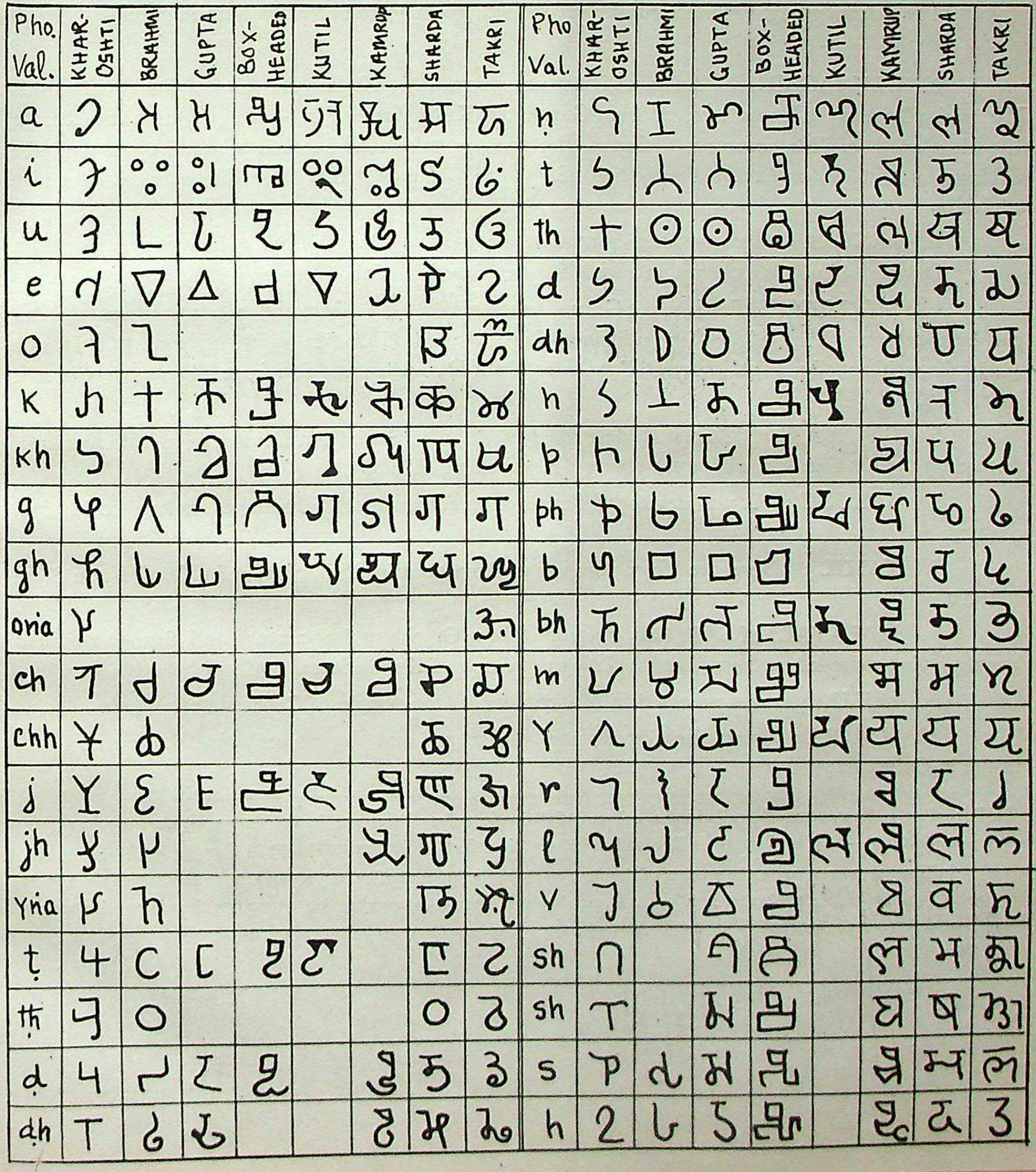
KUTIL : This system was developed from Gupta script in 6th. century A. D. It remained in use upto 9th. century A. D. The letters are taken from a copper-plate-inscription belonging to the period of Harsh Vardhan (560 – 570 A. D).

KAMRUP : It was in use during 12th. century in Kamrup (present Assam).

SHARDA : Developed from Gupta writing in 8th. century A. D. in Punjab and Kashmir after the name of Goddess Sharda. It was replaced by Punjabi (Gurmukhi) in 17th. century A. D.

TAKRI : From Thakuri and Thakur means God or King. It is the cursive form of Sharda, now in disuse. It was the official script of Jammu State from 19th. century.

OLD INDIAN


Pho. Val.
KHAROSHTI
BRAHMI
GUPTA
BOX-HEADED
KUTIL
KAMRUP
SHARDA
TAKRI
Pho Val.
KHAROSHTI
BRAHMI
GUPTA
BOX-HEADED
KUTIL
KAMRUP
SHARDA
TAKRI
a
i
u
e
o
k
kh
g
gh
ṅa
ch
chh
j
jh
yna
ṭ
ṭh
ḍ
ḍh
ṇ
t
th
d
dh
n
p
ph
b
bh
m
y
r
l
v
sh
sh
s
h

MODERN INDIAN

The following writings are officially recognised, given in the columns numbering :—

1. Phonetic Values.

2. DEVNAGARI : The name is derived from Dev+Nagar (the city of Gods) which was Varanasi (Benaras). It was evolved from Gupta and Kutil during 8th. - 9th. centuries and became fully developed in 12th. century. Most of the people take it as Sanskrit because it was used for writing Sanskrit. It has a top line with 45 signs for 45 sounds. It is now the national language of India.

3. BANGLA : This writing is used in Bengal and Bangla Desh. It was invented from Devnagari in 11th. century and was fully developed in 15th. century.

4. GURMUKHI (Punjabi) : Guru=Teacher ; Mukhi= from the mouth. It was developed by the second Guru of the Sikh religion - Guru Angad (1538-52) in 16th. century. It was meant for writing religious scriptures. Few letters from Devnagari and few from Sharda were taken in it.

5. GUJARATI : This was developed is Gujarat State from Devnagari in 15th. century, discarding the top line and with some changes in the shape of letters.

6. TELUGU : It was developed form southern branch of Brahmi and modernised in 15th. century.

7. TAMIL : Developed from Brahmi and matured in 15th. century in Tamil Nadu State of India,

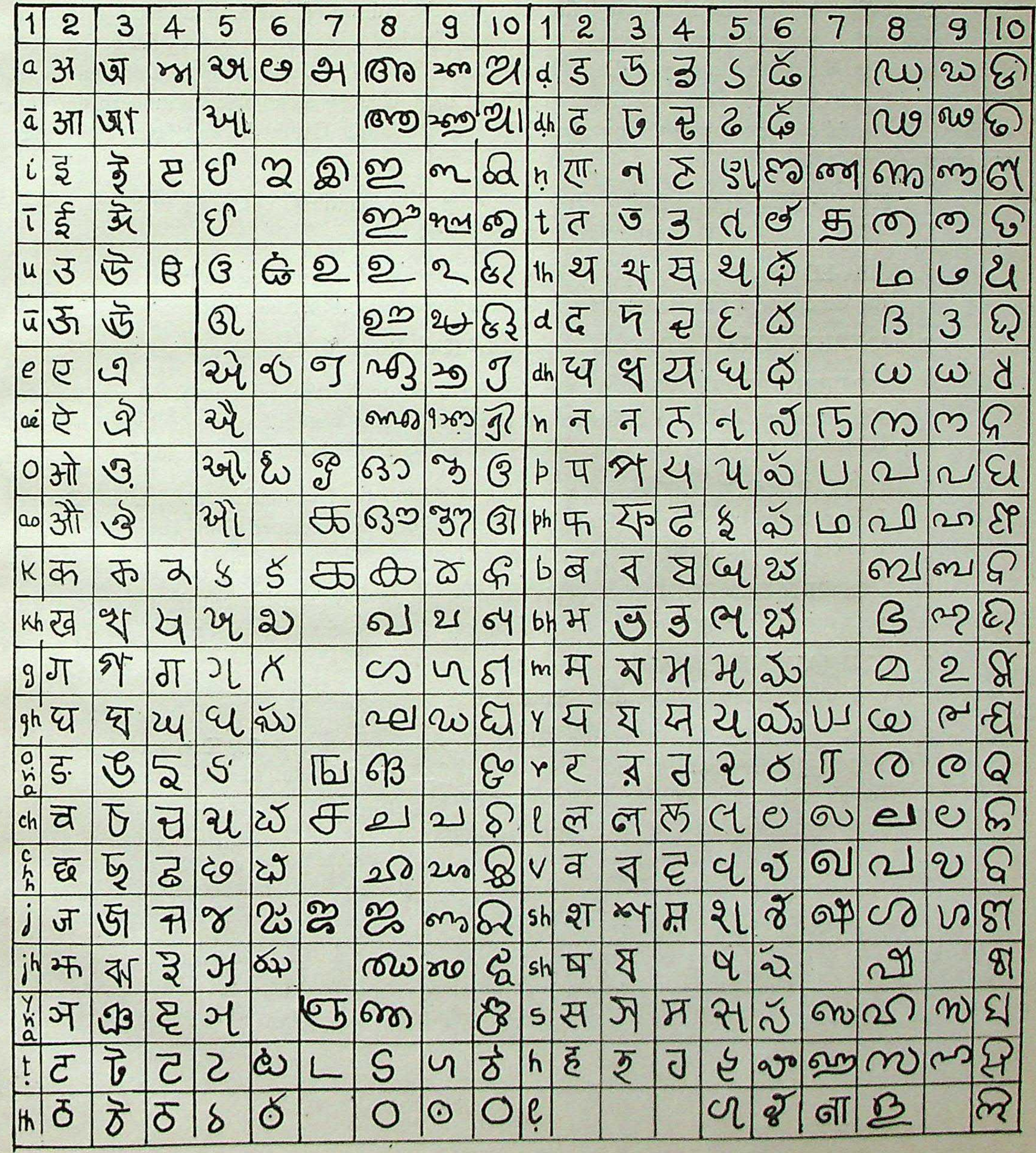
8. MALAYALAM : It was developed from Granth in 8th. century and further modified by employing some letters from Tamil. It is the writing of Kerala State.

9. TULU : It was invented in 9th. century by the people of Coorg state in south.

10. ORIYA : It was developed from Devnagari and Bangla script in 16th. century now in use in Orissa state.

N. B. : In all the systems of India in the column of Phonetic values, there are letters shown with a dot below them such as, ‘t’ -- it is hard ‘ṭ’ as in English but only ‘t’ is soft ‘t’ as Italian and so on, ‘oṅa’ and ‘yṅa’ are the two half nasal sounds with the sounds of the letters given before and after. ‘a’ ‘i’ and ‘u’ the sound of the vowels with a top line is prolonged. ‘n’ — half nasal sound should be produced by touching the palate with tongue and throwing it forward.

MODERN INDIAN

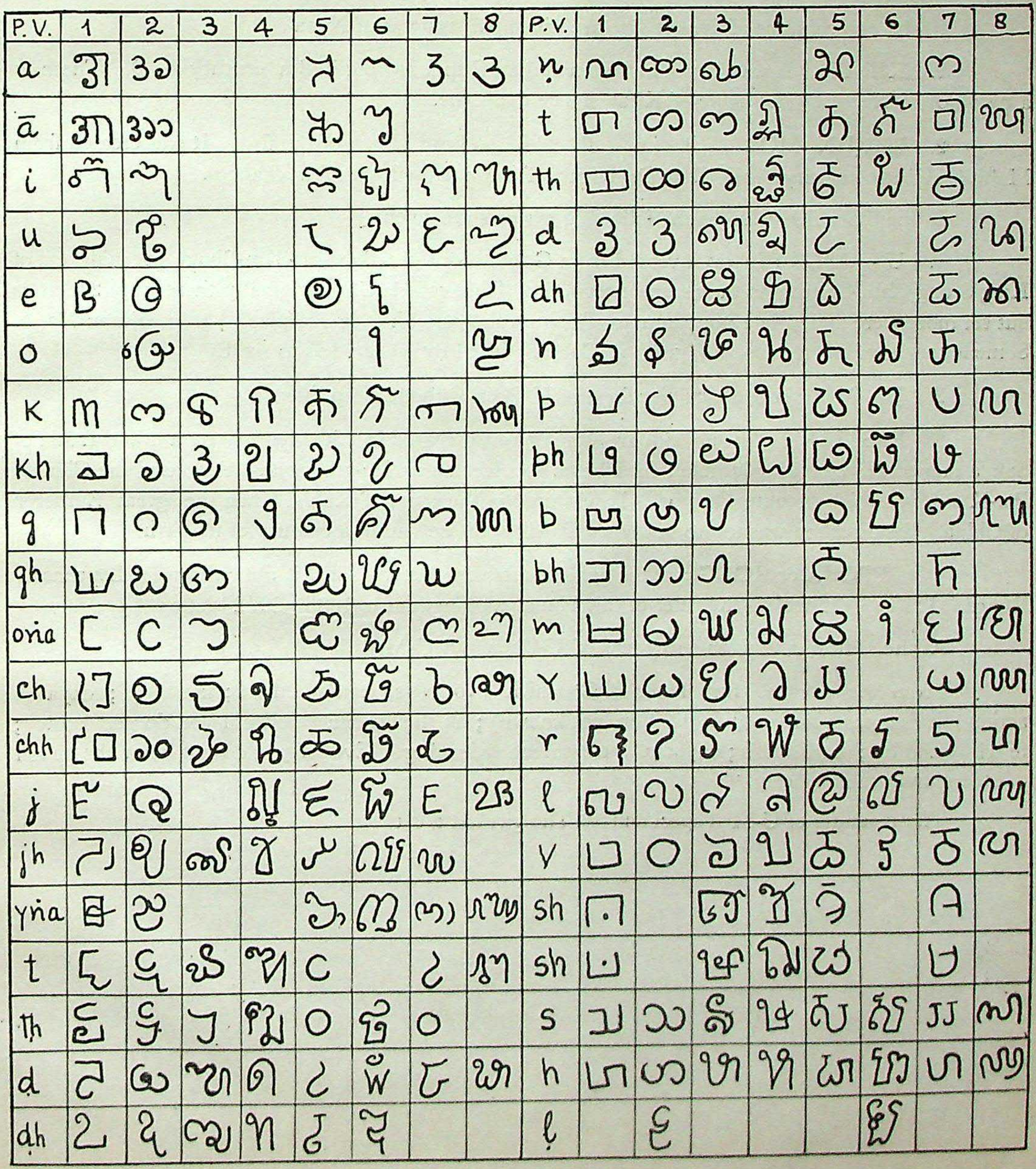

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
a
ā
i
ī
u
ū
e
ai
o
au
k
kh
g
gh
ṅa
ch
chh
j
jh
ña
ṭ
ṭh
ḍ
ḍh
ṇ
t
th
d
dh
n
p
ph
b
bh
m
y
r
l
v
sh
ṣh
s
h
ḷ

SOUTH–EAST–ASIAN

South-East-Asian countries were influenced by the culture of India about 2000 years ago. Priests and traders reached in many parts of this area. Gradually the South-Indian Kings founded their colonies by about 5th. century A. D. The writing of South India also travelled along and with few changes it was created. Due to influence of China more changes took place in modernising the writing. In the following columns the systems of Burma, Thailand, Cambodia and Java (Indonesia) are given :—

1. KYOK-CHA (Square Pali) : It was developed by Buddhists of Ceylon in Burma about 12th century A. D. for inscribing on rocks and stones.
2. CHA-LONH (Round Script) : This was developod for writing on palm leaves. It is the official script of Burma now. It has 10 vowels and 32 consonants.
3. ANCIENT THAI : This was invented by King Ruang in 10th. century.
4. MODERN THAI : This was created from Boromat script by king Ramkhambeng in 13th. century. Due to influence of Chinese the tone system has been adopted without being represented by any sign. There are no separate vowels in this writing.
5. AKSHAR MOOL : This is the writing of Cambodia (Kambuja), now called Khmer. It was called by Chinese Fu-nan The writing was developed from Indian system in 6th. century. (Akshar = letter ; Mool = root).
6. MODERN CAMBODIAN, : This has no separate vowels. Different signs were created with the addition of vowels. All of them could not be given due to limited space.
7. OLD JAVANESE (KAVI) : According to Prof. Krom this was created from 'Granth' of South India in 7th. century. Sanskrit was the language in olden days.
8. NEW JAVANESE : After the fall of Hindu Kingdom in 1478, Kavi was changed to middle Javanese which was in use upto 1628 giving room to New-Javanese which remained in use upto 1940. Thereafter it was replaced by Roman script.

SOUTH - EAST - ASIAN


P.V.
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
a
ā
i
u
e
o
k
kh
g
gh
ona
ch
chh
j
jh
yna
ṭ
ṭh
ḍ
ḍh
ṇ
t
th
d
dh
n
p
ph
b
bh
m
y
r
l
v
sh
ṣh
s
h
ḷ

HIMALAYAN

In the two columns of the left side are given two systems of Nepal.

1. KIRAT : It was developed from Indian Gupta writing in 8th. century A. D. There is a province in Nepal by the name of Kirat, hence the name.

2. BHUJIN MOL : (Bhujin = fly ; Mol = head ; head of the fly). It was created from Maithili in 14th. century A. D. Now Devnagari of India is used with few changes.

In the other five columns the following systems are given :—

1. U – CHEN : It was invented from Gupta script by Thon-mi-Sam-Bhota (a minister of King Srong-Chen-Gampo) in the central province of Tibet called 'U'. Originally there were 24 letters but six more were added in 12th. century. They are shown with a sign of plus (+) in column No. 5. Some letters have two sounds, also given in Col. 5. Its direction was left to right.

2. U – Med : It is the cursive form of U-Chen without a top line.

3. PASSEPA : Tibetan Square writing was invented in 13th. century by a grand Lama of Sakya named Passepa (Honourable). In Tibeten it is written as Blo-gros-rgyal-mthsan and the Chinese P'a-K'o-si-pa, which became Passepa. It was used in the court of Kublai Khan the great Emperor of China. Its direction was top to bottom. It fell in disuse within a century of its birth.

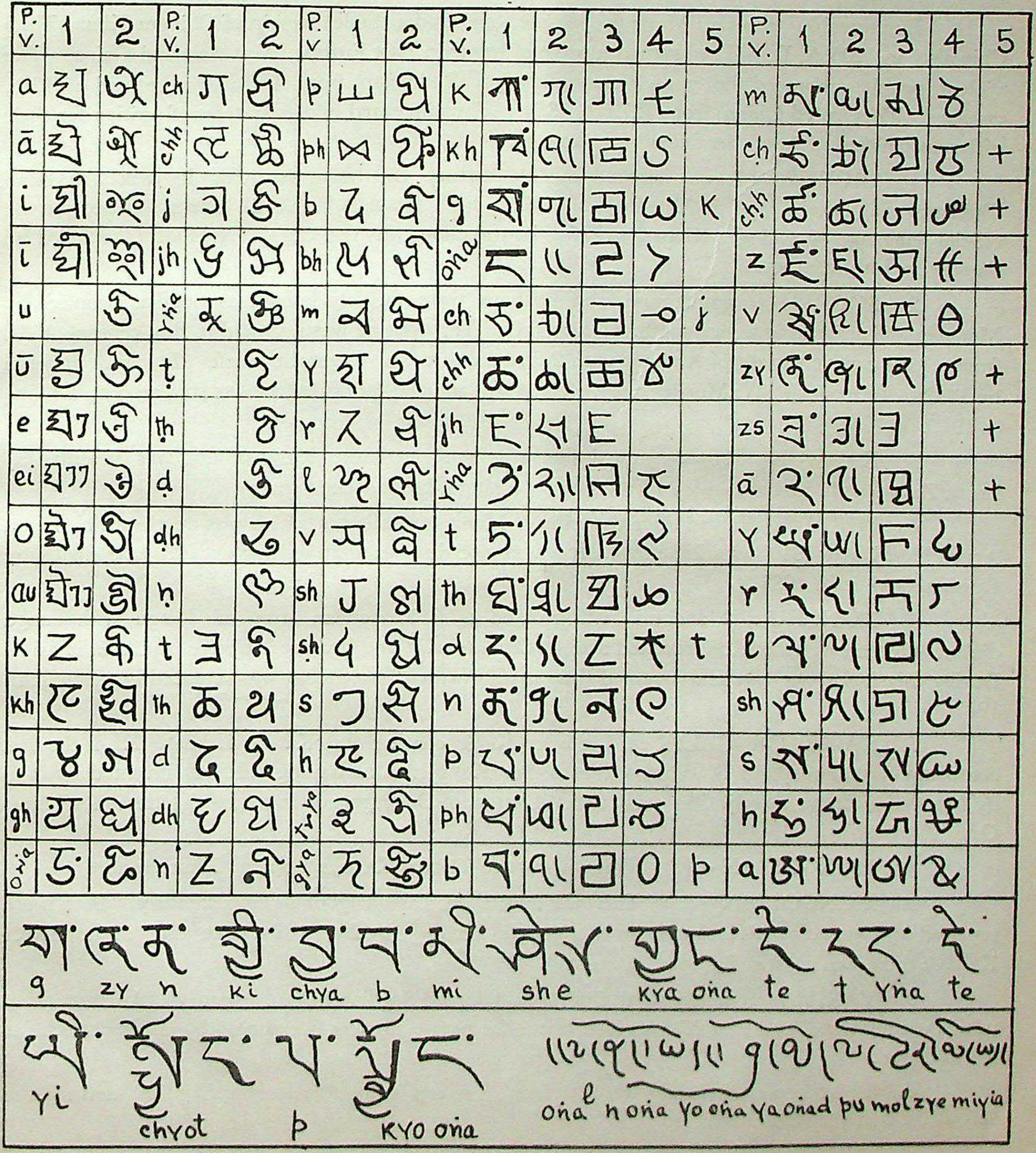
4 LEPCHA or RONG : It is named after the natives of Sikkim who were Lepchas or Rongs. It was modified by the ruler of this Himalyan kingdom in 1886 with 28 letters.

At the bottom are given specimens of U-Chen and U-Med :

From the left the first letter is 'G' which is voiceless, zyn = others ; kee = of ; chya = action ; 'b' is again voiceless (why written, not known) ; mi she kyaona = even if you do not know ; te tri = and he ; te yi = his ; chyot p = treatment. Meaning – "Even if you do not know the action of others, treat them (nicely)."

The meaning of U-Med specimen = The girl has a cat.

HIMALAYAN


P. V. 1 2 P. V. 1 2 P. V. 1 2 P. V. 1 2 3 4 5 P. V. 1 2 3 4 5
a ā i ī u ū e ei o au k kh g gh ṅa
ch chh j jh ñ ṭ ṭh ḍ ḍh ṇ t th d dh n
p ph b bh m y r l v sh ṣh s h kṣa jña
k kh g ṅa ch chh jh ña t th d n p ph b
k j t p
m ch chh z v zy zs ā y r l sh s h a
+ + + + + +
g zy n ki chya b mi she kya ṅa te t yna te
yi chyot p kyo ṅa
ṅa l n ṅa yo ṅa ya ṅad pu molzye miyia

MONGOLIAN

Innumerable tribes of Mongols became one ·under the leadership of Chingez Khan (Timo Chin also) in 1206 A. D.. They spread a wave of terror in East Europe, West Asia and China. The violent people embraced the non-violent religion of Buddhism from India by the end of 13th. century. They ruled China from 1279 to 1368. They invented many systems of writing for their different dialects, given in the following columns :—

1. UIGHUR : It was created in 8th. century by Mongols living in west Turkestan (Bukhara, Samarkand and Balkh) for their Turkish language. It has 21 letters. It became the official language of Chingez Khan in 1227. Its direction was vertical. It was later replaced by Passepa in 14th century.

2. SOGDIAN : Samarkand and Bokhara were formely known as Sogdia, peopled by Mongols of Russian origin during 5th. century B.C. This writing was invented in 8th. century A. D. from a local cursive variety of Aramaic with 20 letters, direction was right to left. It was deciphered by F. C. Andreas, F. W. Mueller and R. Gauthiot and the list of letters was prepared by Le Coq in 1919.

3. KALMUK : It was named after a tribe of nomadic Mongols and was invented by Lama Zaya Pandit in 1648 with 24 letters (4 are omitted due to lack of space).

4. BURIAT : Named after the tribe of Mongols in Siberia This was developed by Lama Agven Dordjier in 1910 with 23 letters. It was replaced by Roman writing in 1931 and finally by Russian Cyrillic in 1937.

5. MANCHU : Manchuria was peopled by a Mongolian tribe of Tungu with Tungu dialect. A leader of this tribe revolted against Chinese rule and became Emperor of China in 1644. During this deriod one Da Hai invented this writing with 23 letters but was replaced by Chinese in 1937.

6. KALIK OR GALIK : The word Kalik comes from 'Ka' + 'Lekha' ('Ka is the first consonant of Indian system of writing), that is the 'Ka' system of writing. It was invented in 1310 by Mongolian Lama Tsordji Osir. He took 44 letters of Devnagari of India and 5 letters of Uighur. Only 40 are given.

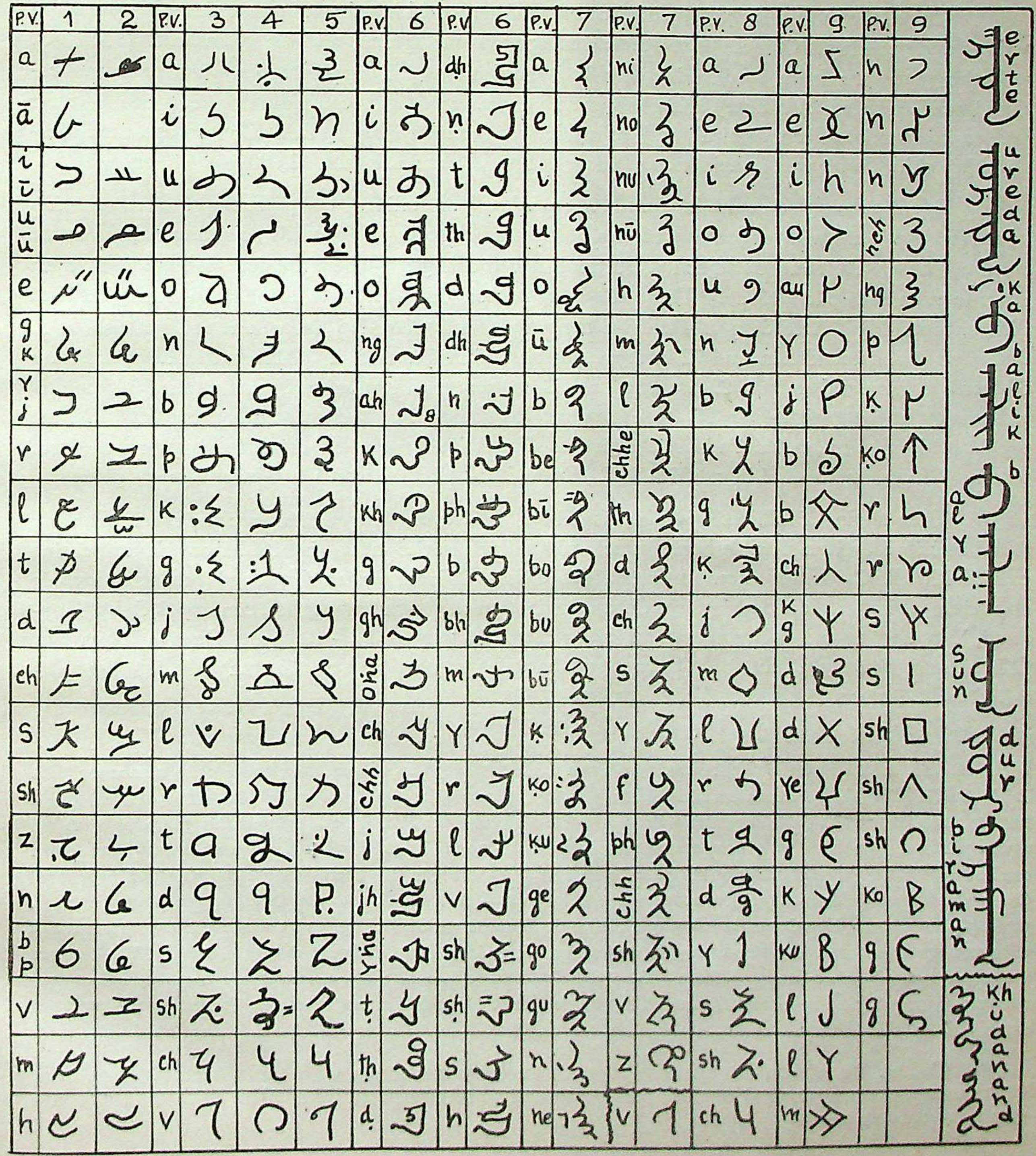
7. MONGOLIAN – 1. : This is a cursive form of Kalik, specimen "Khudanand".

8. MONGOLIAN – 2. : This was developed from Uighur in 13th. century. Both were replaced by Cyrillic in 1941, specimen on right side column reads : "In olden days in the city of Kabalik there was a great Brahman (Priest)."

9. YANISI : It was created from Aramaic and Sogdian in 8th. century. An inscription of this writing was found near Yanisi river, hence the name. It was deciphered by a Danish scholar V. Thomsen.

All the Mongolian writings were written from top to bottom (except Sogdian) and right to left as the first vertical column.

MONGOLIAN


P.V. 1 2 P.V. 3 4 5 P.V. 6 P.V. 6 P.V. 7 P.V. 7 P.V. 8 P.V. 9 P.V. 9
a ā i ī u ū e g k γ j r l t d ch s sh z n b p v m h
a i u e o n b p k g j m l r t d s sh ch v
a i u e o ng ah k kh g gh cha ch chh j jh yha ṭ ṭh ḍ
dh ṇ t th d dh n p ph b bh m γ r l v sh ṣh s h
a e i u o ū b be bī bo bu bū ḳ ḳo ku ge go gu n ne
ni no nu nū h m l chhe th d ch s γ f ph chh sh v z v
a e i o u n b k g ḳ j m l r t d γ s sh ch
a e i o au γ j b b ch k g d d γe g k ku l l m
h n n nch ng p ḳ ḳo r r s s sh sh sh ko g g
erte
ureda
Ka
balik
b
ae
γa
a:
sun
dur
biraman
Khudanand

CHINESE.........1

China, the most thickly populated country of the world has the most complicated system of writing and speaking. Chinese began their writing with pictograms and ideograms in c. 1800 B. C. and the same are being used to day with few modifications and simplifications which are complications for a foreigner. A country with innumerable dialects could communicate and could make such a tremendous technological and scientific advancement in every field only through their ideographic writing, is beyond imagination. Such ideograms are more than 40,000.

Equally strange that the language has no vowels, no suffixes, no prefixes but the addition of another ideogram with separate meaning changes the meaning. There is no grammar, the same word can be a verb, noun or adjective, but root never changes. There are four tones. Tone is an acoustic pitch and pitch alone. There are many homonyms—words with the same sound but with different meaning. According to sinologists the sound "shih" has 236 ideograms or symbols (54 in first tone, 40 in second tone and 72 in third tone and 66 in fourth). In Mandarin dialect there are 69 words pronounced as "i", 29 as "ku" and 59 as "shih". In most cases the number of tone is written on the top-right-side of the ideogram to distinguish and to be more correct. On the top 8 mystic-trigrams, called Pa'kua, are given. The 3 lines were cut at different places to form words. They were created in c. 2800 B. C. Below it the Chinese words and meanings are given.

The origin of Chinese writing is misty. However, fragmentary archaic characters were found inscribed on innumerable bones (oracle-bones) and tortise-shells, in 1899 from Honan dating c. 1333-1266 B. C. It has now been established that Chinese writing developed from these archaic characters which were divided into six Categories known as "li-shu" about 1st. century B.C by Shun-nung, Yao and others. The characters are written in four styles – Regular, Cursive, Square or Official and Seal style. In the Chinese dictionary, characters are classified under 214 headings called radicals according to number of strokes.

The six Categories are :—

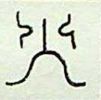
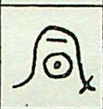
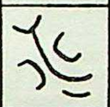
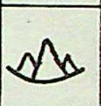
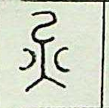
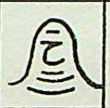
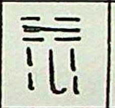
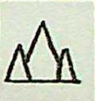
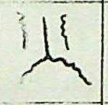
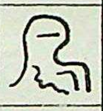
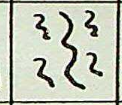
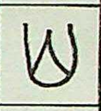
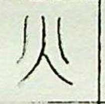
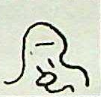
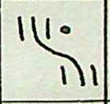
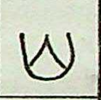
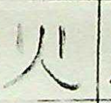
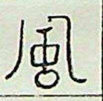
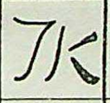
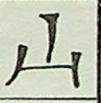
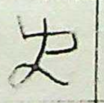
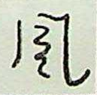
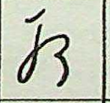
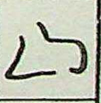
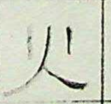
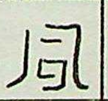
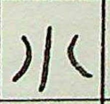
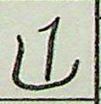
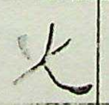
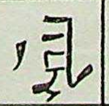
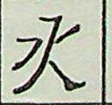
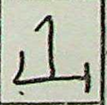
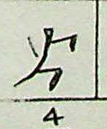
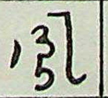
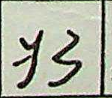
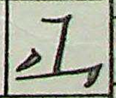
1. Pictorial (Hsiang Hsing) : developed from original pictograms of the concrete objects, numbering 608. 2. Indicative (Chih shih) : characters derived from symbols indicating the ideas. Symbol of sun-rise would mean early morning, numbering 107. 3. Ideographic or Suggestive Compounds (Hui i) : characters of this group or combined together to form new ones with new meaning, such as, Sun+moon=bright ; tree+tree=forest : man+word=trust, numbering 750. 4. Ideo-phonetic or Phonetic Compounds (hsia sheng) : the characters are composed of two parts. One — the phonetic element that gives sound and the other — determinative which indicates the meaning such as, "chiang+Ho=Hwang Ho=Ocean, numbering 21,810. 5. Transferred or Deflections (chuan-chu) : the characters of this group are established by transferring the original meaning with a slight change in shape and sound. The changed symbol of 'prince' would mean 'officer,' 732. 6. Borrowed (chia chia) : The characters are borrowed hitherto not written with modification in pronunciation. They may resemble in sound but not in sense. This category includes the names of animals and plants.

On the left side on the opposite page four archaic characters, with their meanings and their evolutionary periods along with their names in the first column, are given. The different scripts are explained further :—

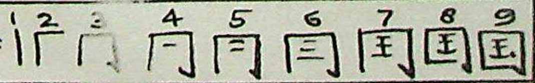
See page 50

CHINESE - 1

Pa'Kua	☰	☱	☲	☳	☴	☵	☶	☷
CALLED IN CHINESE :-	KAN	TUI	LI	Ch'en	HSU	K'AN	KEN	KUN
MEANING:	SKY	SWAMP	WATER	THUNDER	WIND	COLD	BOUNDARY	EARTH

NAME OF WRITING	PERIOD From	To	Huo FIRE	Ch'i AIR	Shui WATER	Shan HILL
KU WEN 1	1800 B.C.	800 B.C.				
KU WEN 1	800 B.C.	600 B.C.				
CHOU WEN 2	600 B.C.	400 B.C.				
HSIAO CHUAN 3	400 B.C.	200 B.C.				
LI SHU 4	200 B.C.	100 A.D.				
TS'AO SHU 5	100 A.D	200 A.D.				
PA FEN 6	200 A.D.	300 A.D.				
K'AI SHU 7	300 A.D.	400 A.D.				
HSING SHU 8	400 A.D	800 AD				

KUO = Country 国 =



英 国 人 CHINAMAN → 中 国 人

ing kuo jen ← ENGLISHMAN chong kuo jen

ENGLAND COUNTRYMAN China country man

No	WORD	CALLED	MEANS	NUMBER
1	一	i	one	1 一 i
2	二	erh	two	2 二 erh
3	子	tzu	son, child	三 3 san
4	文	wen	ornament	四 4 ssu
5	甘	Kan	sweet	五 5 vu
6	舟	chau	boat	六 6 liu
7	見	chien	see	七 7 ch'i
8	金	chin^1	metal, gold	八 8 pa
9	首	shou^3	head	九 9 chia
10	馬	ma	horse	十 10 shih
11	魚	Yu^2	fish	十一 11. shih i
12	黃	huang^2	yellow	十五 15. shihvu
13	黽	min^3	frog	二十 20 erh shih
14	鼻	pi^2	nose	二十八 28 Erh shihpe
15	齒	ch'ih^3	front teeth	三十 30 san SHIH
16	龍	lung^2	dragon	三十九 39. san shih chiu 四十 40 ssu shih
17	龠	Yo^4	flute	千 ch'ien 1000

yu = is 有

i = one 一

KO = only 個

khen very 很

fin chung poor 貧 窮

ti = 的 once

ren = man 人

BASIC STROKES

1. ㇔
2. 一
3. 丨
4. ㇇ ㇖
5. ㇀
6. ㇏
7. ㇒
8. ㇄ ㇚ ㇄

CHINESE... .. 2

In the first-left column are the words. In column - 1, the signs for the words are given of the Lo-Lo script along with their pronunciation. This was a tribe living in Yunnan and Szechwan provinces of South China. In 1872 a French missionary Vial arrived here and compiled a list of about 3000 signs of this script. It was invented by the tribe in 14th. century. The signs of column - 2, are compiled by another missionary d'Ollone. In column - 3, the signs of Kiao-kio language of the same tribe are given and in column - 4, the signs of Wei-ning language are given. All the signs of the three Cols. (2, 3, 4,), are collected and compiled by d'Ollone.

MIAO - TSE : In the middle few signs of this writing are given with their Chinese pronunciation and English meaning. d'Ollone has prepared a dictionary of 338 signs. It is named after the Miao-tzu tribe of south-west China.

CH'I - TAN : After the name of a small kingdom of Ch'i-tan (K'itan in north-east China) which was overthrown by Yu-chen in 1125 He created this writing in 1129. It was replaced by Manchu script in 1650. Few words are given on the right vertical column, they were transliterated by W. Grube, as :—"His Majesty presents for information.".

At bottom left one word "Hua" is given with three tones and three meanings. At bottom right are given four tones with a word "DO" along with their names and meanings.

The effort to romanise the Chinese characters by Wade-system has failed to achieve the expected success. However, its use is imperative for a English-knowing-student in learning Chinese. viz, K' = as in "Kind" ; K = 'g' as in "go" ; P' = as in "pave" ; P = 'b' as in "bath". Thus the sounds of "K and P" are changed into 'g' and 'b'.

.... from page 48.

1. It has 800 basic symbols to which 3469 more were added. 2. This was developed during 'reign of Chou dynasty (1122 — 249 B. C.) also called "Big-seal-style". 3. This was evolved during the reign of Ch' in dynasty (249 — 207 B. C.) also known as "Small-seal-style." 4. Modified by Cheng Mio and became court script. 5. Standardised during the reign of Han dynasty (206 B. C. — 220 A. D.). In 105 A. D. paper-making and printing was invented. It was cursive writting called "Grass characters". 6. Further modified by a scholor named Wang-Tsi Chung. 7. Classical script, developed by Wang Shi Chih, also called "clerical hand". 8. Developed for cursive writing for correspondence.

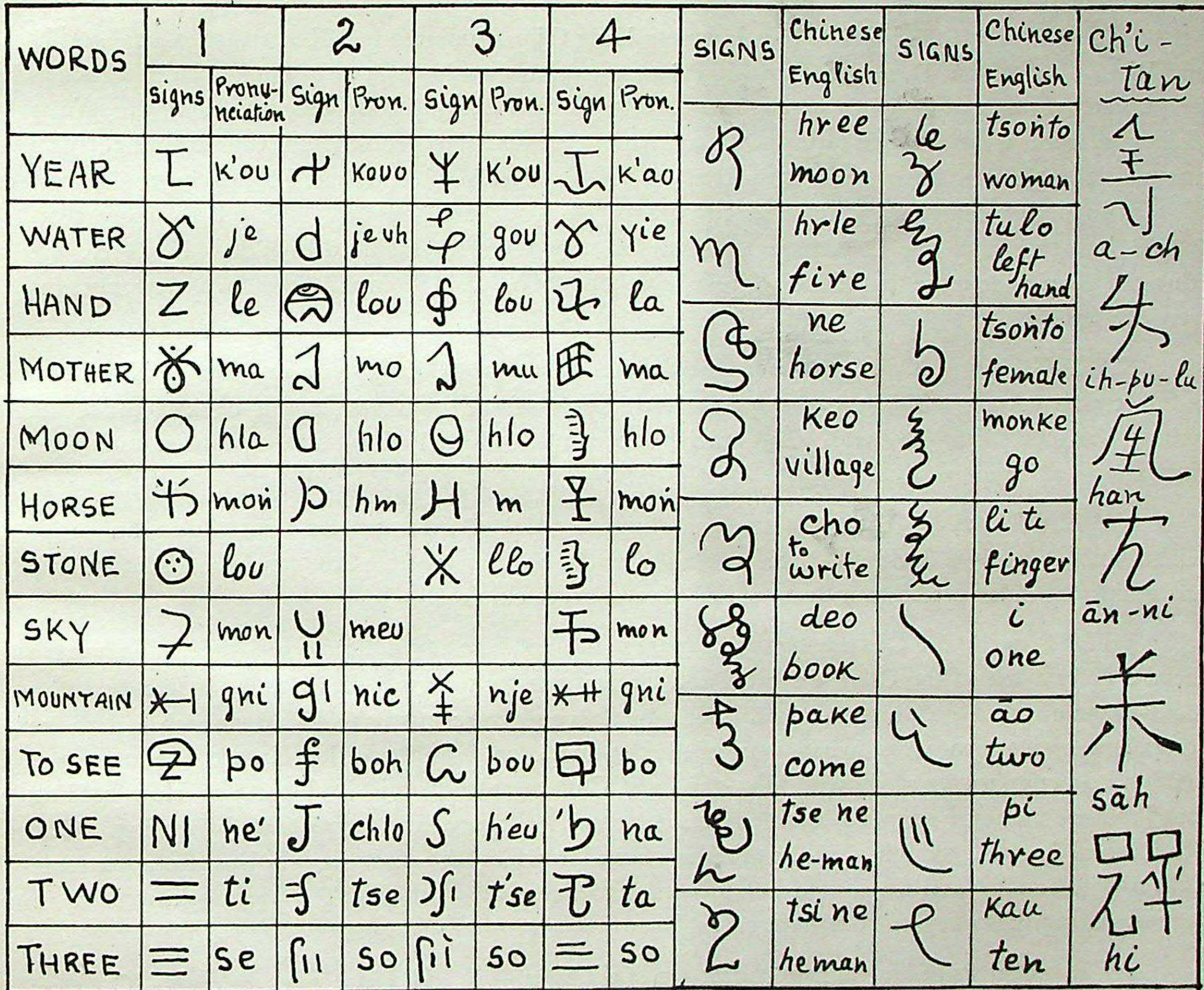
In the 2nd. vertical column 17 symbols are given from one-stroke-symbol to 17-stroke-symbol along with number of tone. The number of strokes have gone upto thirty for writing Chinese characters.

In the 3rd. column Chinese numerals are given and in the 4th. (top) a sentence, reading as, "Yu (is), i (one), ko (only), khen (very). fin + chung (poor), ti (once), ren (man)" ; means, "There was a very poor man", is given. Below this are given 8 basic strokes used in drawing the Chinese characters and they are called : 1. Dot ; 2. Horizontal Bar ; 3. Vertical Bar ; 4. Curved Strokes ; 5. Left Stroke ; 6. Right Stroke ; 7. Ascending Stroke ; 8. Hooks.

Below a word "KUO" with 9 strokes and their order of use is given. Two words are written horizontally - Chinaman (this used to be written during the superamacy of Whites in China, now it is taken as an insultive word) and Englishman ("jen" is written as "ren" to be pronounced "S" as in "fusion").

P. S. I am grateful to Mrs. Chou, Lecturer in Chinese, Allahabad University, Allahabad for her valuable suggestions.

CHINESE - 2



WORDS	1		2		3		4	
	signs	Pronunciation	Sign	Pron.	Sign	Pron.	Sign	Pron.
YEAR	工	K'ou	十	Kouo	丫	K'ou	丄	k'ao
WATER	ɣ	je	d	jeuh	ƒ	gou	ɣ	yie
HAND	Z	le	⊜	lou	ф	lou	孑	la
MOTHER	ж	ma	ɺ	mo	ɺ	mu	田	ma
MOON	O	hla	D	hlo	ϴ	hlo	ℨ	hlo
HORSE	书	moń	ↄ	hm	H	m	平	moń
STONE	⊙	lou			ӿ	llo	ℨ	lo
SKY	7	mon	Ü	meu			丆	mon
MOUNTAIN	⁎-|	gni	gl	nic	丰	nje	⁎#	gni
TO SEE	Ⓩ	po	ƒ	boh	ɑ	bou	日	bo
ONE	NI	he'	J	chlo	S	h'eu	'b	na
TWO	=	ti	∃	tse	ɔſı	t'se	乇	ta
THREE	≡	se	ſıı	so	ſıì	so	≡	so
TEN	4	tse	⧖	tsi	ϛ	tsi	+	tseu

SIGNS	Chinese English	SIGNS	Chinese English
♌	hree moon	ℓe ʒ	tsonto woman
♍	hrle fire	ℨ	tulo left hand
ᘓ	ne horse	ƃ	tsonto female
ᘔ	Keo village	ℨ	monke go
ɱ	cho to write	ℨ	li tu finger
ℨ	deo book	\	i one
ʒ	pake come	ɩ\	āo two
ℓɭ	tse ne he-man	ɭɭɭ	pi three
2	tsi ne heman	ℓ	Kau ten

Ch'i-tan

年

刂

a-ch

失

ih-pu-lu

風

han

无

ān-ni

来

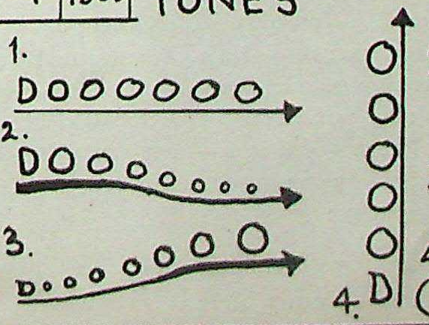
sāh

器

hi

Hua 花	TONE No.1.	Flower
Hua 划	TONE No.2	to row
Hua 话	TONE No 3.	speech (Dialect)

TONES



1. yin ping (heavy)
2. yang p'ing (clear and bright)
3. Shang Sheng (rising sound)
4. ch'u sheng (projected)

JAPANESE & KOREAN

Traditionally it is believed that Japanese King Ojin appointed two Korean scholars — Ajiki and Wani — in 308 A. D. to teach Crown Prince the culture and script of China. Thus Chinese-script reached Japan. Chinese language was monosyllabic while Japanese was agglutinative. When Chinese symbols were adopted to Japanese language it created the problem in the meaning. The number of meanings have gone beyond assimilation. The word 'shu' had 52 meanings, 'ku' had 55. The scholars started using Chinese ideograms along. Their number reached to more than 10,000 but today, as per Government declaration they have been reduced to 1900. However, the educated people use more than 3000 Chinese symbols. To avoid complications two new systems were evolved.

KATA-KANA : (Col. 2) was invented from K' ai-shu (Col. 1) by a minister — Kibi Mabi in 8th. century A. D. 'Kana' (means "borrowed names") from the word 'kauna' or 'kari-na'. The writing was used for literary works and official documents. From 1947 its use is confined to foreign names.

HIRA-GANA : (Hira — plain and simble in Col. 4) was created from Ts'ao-shu script (Col. 3) of China by a Buddhist — Kobo Daishi, in the beginning of the 9th. century. This writing was mainly used for newspapers and novels. It was more cursive.

In borrowing the Chinese symbols Japanese did not take any notice of the tone. They have sliced a portion out of the Chinese symbol and made it a letter with the same sound (Chinese being mono-syllabic) of the Chinese symbol. Both the above given scripts have 48 letters each. Both are competent enough to write what is needed but due to habit and tradition Kata-kana is now used mainly for foreign names along with Hira-gana and Chinese called 'kanji' by Japanese. How baffling that Japanese use three scripts at a time in one sentence. There are two directions for writing. One is horizontal from left to right and the other is vertical in which the first line begins from extreme right (top to bottom) and the second line follows to the left side of the first. The book written in vertical columns also begins from right side.

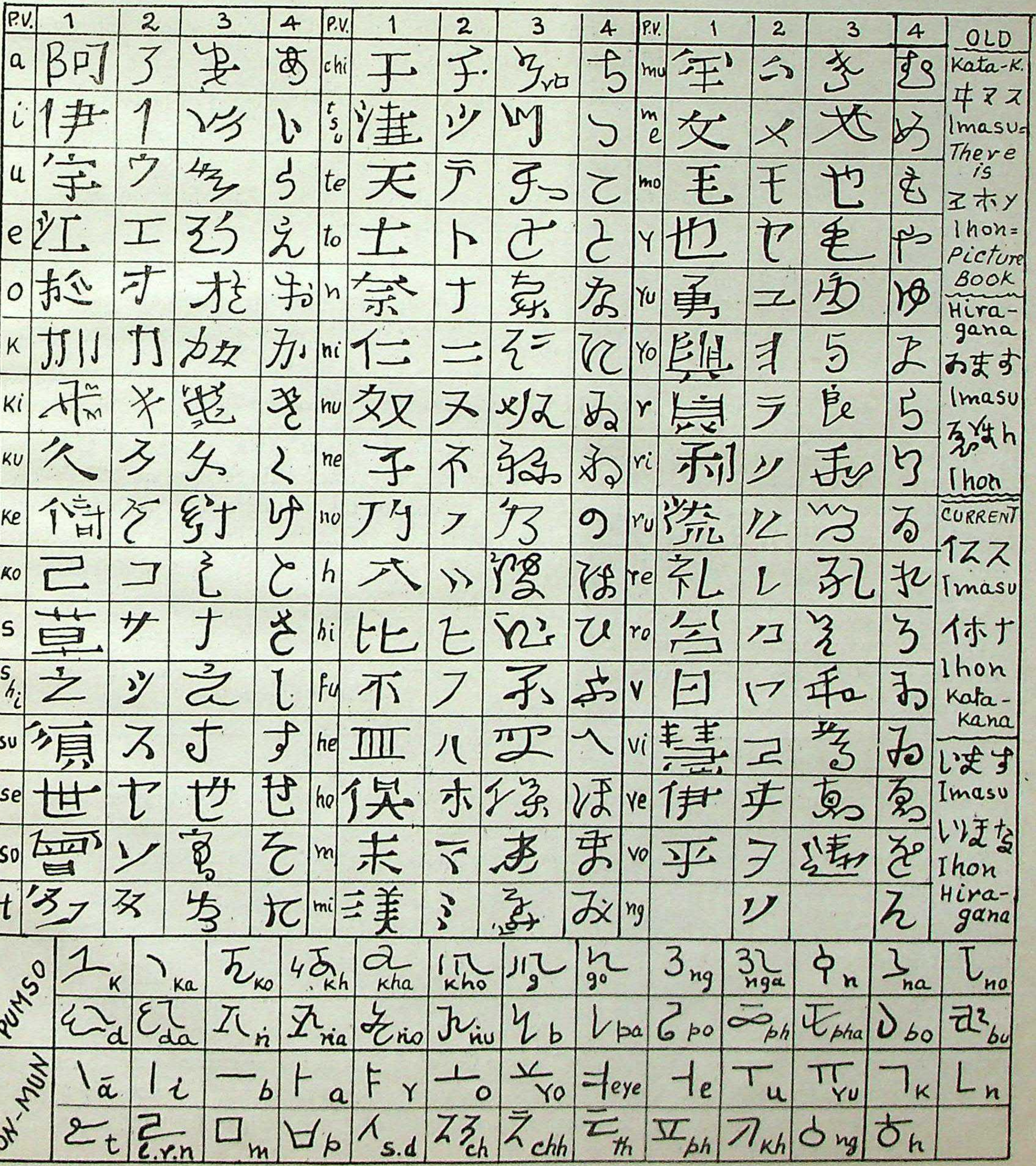
The meanings of the Chinese characters of columns — 1. and 3. are given below :—(Question mark = unknown).

a — prefix to names ; i — pronoun (he, she etc.) : u — to shelter : e — river : o — in, on, at : k — hands-joined : ki — (?) : ku — long time : ke — (?) : ko — self indicative : s — grass ; shi — to arrive at : su — necessary : se — an age from generation to generation : so — already : t -- many : chi — to oppose : tsu — to spit : te — heaven : to — land : n — but, how : ni — slave : nu — lady : ne — child : no — however : h — light : hi — to compare : fu — not : he — utensil : ho — (?) : m — end : mi — river : mu — harvest : me — to top : mo — feather : y — also : yu — brave : yo -- with : r - (?) : ri -- gain : ru — to drift : re - good manners : ro — musical note : v-sun : vi — clever : ve - used in names : vo - ordinary : ng - (?).

Extreme right are the specimens of old and new Kata-kana and Hira-gana : reading as "Imasu Ihon" = There is a picture book.

See page...........54.

JAPANESE & KOREAN



P.V.	1	2	3	4	P.V.	1	2	3	4	P.V.	1	2	3	4	OLD
a	阿	ア	安	あ	chi	千	チ	知	ち	mu	牟	ム	武	む	Kata-K. 井マス Imasu= There is ヱホン Ihon= Picture Book
i	伊	イ	以	い	tsu	津	ツ	川	つ	me	女	メ	女	め	
u	宇	ウ	宇	う	te	天	テ	天	て	mo	毛	モ	也	も	
e	江	エ	衣	え	to	止	ト	止	と	Y	也	ヤ	毛	や	
o	於	オ	於	お	n	奈	ナ	奈	な	Yu	勇	ユ	由	ゆ	Hira-gana ゐます Imasu ゑほん Ihon
K	加	カ	加	か	ni	仁	二	仁	に	Yo	與	ヨ	与	よ	
Ki	幾	キ	幾	き	nu	奴	ヌ	奴	ぬ	r	良	ラ	良	ら	
Ku	久	ク	久	く	ne	子	ネ	祢	ね	ri	利	リ	利	り	
Ke	介	ケ	計	け	no	乃	ノ	乃	の	ru	流	ル	留	る	CURRENT イマス Imasu
Ko	己	コ	己	こ	h	八	ハ	波	は	re	礼	レ	礼	れ	
S	草	サ	左	さ	hi	比	ヒ	比	ひ	ro	呂	ロ	呂	ろ	イホン Ihon Kata-Kana
Shi	之	シ	之	し	fu	不	フ	不	ふ	v	日	ワ	和	わ	
su	須	ス	寸	す	he	皿	八	部	へ	vi	慧	ヰ	為	ゐ	います Imasu
se	世	セ	せ	せ	ho	保	ホ	保	ほ	ve	伊	ヱ	恵	ゑ	いほん Ihon
so	曽	ソ	曽	そ	m	末	マ	末	ま	vo	乎	ヲ	遠	を	Hira-gana
t	多	タ	太	た	mi	美	ミ	美	み	ng		ン		ん	

PUMSO	K	Ka	Ko	Kh	Kha	Kho	g	go	ng	nga	n	na	no
	d	da	ri	ria	rio	riu	b	pa	po	ph	pha	bo	bu
ON-MUN	ㆍ ā	ㅣ i	ㅡ b	ㅏ a	ㅑ Y	ㅗ o	ㅛ Yo	ㅖ eye	ㅔ e	ㅜ u	ㅠ Yu	ㄱ K	ㄴ n
	ㄷ t	ㄹ l.r.n	ㅁ m	ㅂ p	ㅅ s.d	ㅈ ch	ㅊ chh	ㅌ th	ㅍ ph	ㅋ Kh	ㅇ ng	ㅎ h	

AFRICAN 1

The dark people of the dark continent did not remain behind in creating few interesting systems of writing which are mentioned in the following lines :—

ETHIOPIC : Ethiopians migrated from south Arabia. They invented their writing from Old Abyssinian-writing in 4th. century **A. D.** with 26 consonants only. Two Christian missionaries Frumentius and Theophilos -- added 6 vowels to each consonant in 5th. eentury, thus making a syllabary of 182 letters. It is in use today under the namc of Ahmaric. Its direction was right to left but due to Greek influence it became left to right in 10th. century.

SOMALI : This writing is given at the bottom. It was invented by Isphan Yusuf of Somali tribe in 1825 with 22 consonants and 5 vowels. Its direction was left to right due to Italian influence. It has now fell in disuse. Below this a specimen of this writing is also given, which means :

"They won't marry with us in far off countries. Do not go to foreign lands."

NSIBIDI : On the right side of the page are Nsibidi ideograms. This was used in Calabar District of south Nigeria. The Commissioner of this district discovered 24 signs in 1905 Its origin and period of invention is unknown. It was kept secret by the members of the Nsibidi Secret Society. It was mostly used by witch doctors for magic and medicine. The meanings are given serially :—

1. Married love. 2. Married love with pillow. 3. Married love with two pillows. 4. Quarrel between husband and wife. 5. Violent quarrel. 6. Wife with six children. 7. Road. 8. House, husband and three wives. 9. House, husband, 2 wives, 10 children. 10. Slave. 11. Wealth. 12. Mirror.

............from page 52.

Korea remained politically and culturally under China for centuries. According to a local tradition Wan-shin introduced Chinese-characters in 1st. century A. D. Many difficulties were faced by Korean scholars in adopting Chinese because Chinese was mono-syllabic while Korean was polysyllabic and agglutinative.

PUMSO alphabets were invented by a minister of the Korean King Sin-mun in 692 A. D. but it fell in disuse after 15th. century.

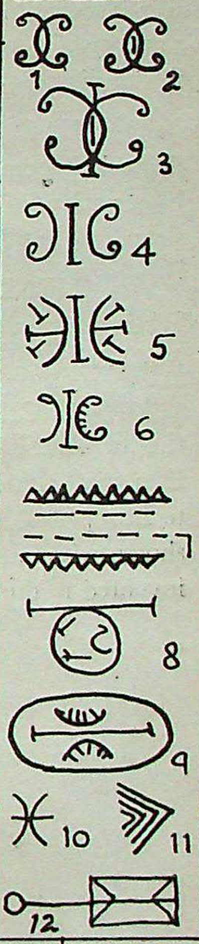
ON-MUN was created by King Si-Chong of yi dynasty in the middle of 15th. century. "On-mun" means the writing of the people. Koreans used the Chinese script upto 19th. century inspite of having their own script. After 1910 On-mun was modified and standardised with 25 letters. It has no separate signs for "g, b, d, j". These sounds are used by "k, p, t, ch" respectively. The "an -- ta = to know" is pronounced as "anda" similarly "an -- pank" is read as "anbang." Its direction is left to right.

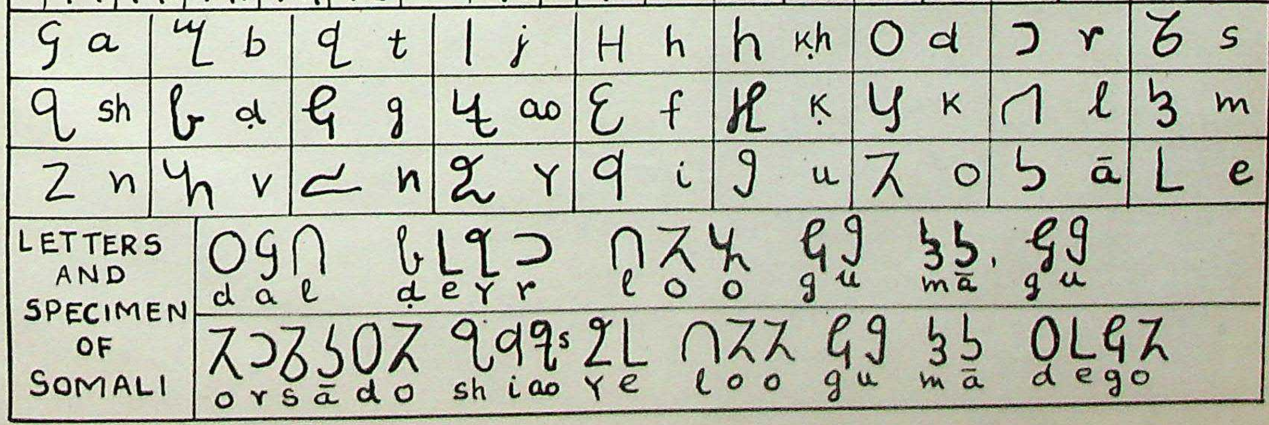
AFRICAN - 1

ETHIOPIC SYLLABARY - 26 CONSONANTS + 6 VOWELS

P.V.	Sign	u	ī	a	e	i	o	P.V.	sign	u	ī	a	e	i	o
h	ሀ	ሁ	ሂ	ሃ	ሄ	ህ	ሆ	k	ከ	ኩ	ኪ	ካ	ኬ	ክ	ኮ
l	ለ	ሉ	ሊ	ላ	ሌ	ል	ሎ	w	ወ	ዉ	ዊ	ዋ	ዌ	ው	ዎ
kh	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ	a	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	ዓ	ዔ	ዕ	ዖ
m	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ማ	ሜ	ም	ሞ	z	ዘ	ዙ	ዚ	ዛ	ዜ	ዝ	ዞ
sh	ሠ	ሡ	ሢ	ሣ	ሤ	ሥ	ሦ	j	የ	ዩ	ዪ	ያ	ዬ	ይ	ዮ
r	ረ	ሩ	ሪ	ራ	ሬ	ር	ሮ	d	ደ	ዱ	ዲ	ዳ	ዴ	ድ	ዶ
s	ሰ	ሱ	ሲ	ሳ	ሴ	ስ	ሶ	g	ገ	ጉ	ጊ	ጋ	ጌ	ግ	ጎ
ḳ	ቀ	ቁ	ቂ	ቃ	ቄ	ቅ	ቆ	tt	ጠ	ጡ	ጢ	ጣ	ጤ	ጥ	ጦ
b	በ	ቡ	ቢ	ባ	ቤ	ብ	ቦ	ƥ	ጰ	ጱ	ጲ	ጳ	ጴ	ጵ	ጶ
t	ተ	ቱ	ቲ	ታ	ቴ	ት	ቶ	ṣ	ጸ	ጹ	ጺ	ጻ	ጼ	ጽ	ጾ
ḳh	ኀ	ኁ	ኂ	ኃ	ኄ	ኅ	ኆ	dz	ፀ	ፁ	ፂ	ፃ	ፄ	ፅ	ፆ
n	ነ	ኑ	ኒ	ና	ኔ	ን	ኖ	f	ፈ	ፉ	ፊ	ፋ	ፌ	ፍ	ፎ
a̱	አ	ኡ	ኢ	ኣ	ኤ	እ	ኦ	ph	ፐ	ፑ	ፒ	ፓ	ፔ	ፕ	ፖ

NSIBIDI


1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12


a
b
t
j
H
h
ḳh
d
r
s
sh
ḍ
g
ao
f
ḳ
k
l
m
n
v
n
Y
i
u
o
ā
e
dal
ḍeYr
loo
gu
mā
gu
orsādo
shiao
Ye
loo
gu
mā
dego

LETTERS AND SPECIMEN OF SOMALI

AFRICAN.........2

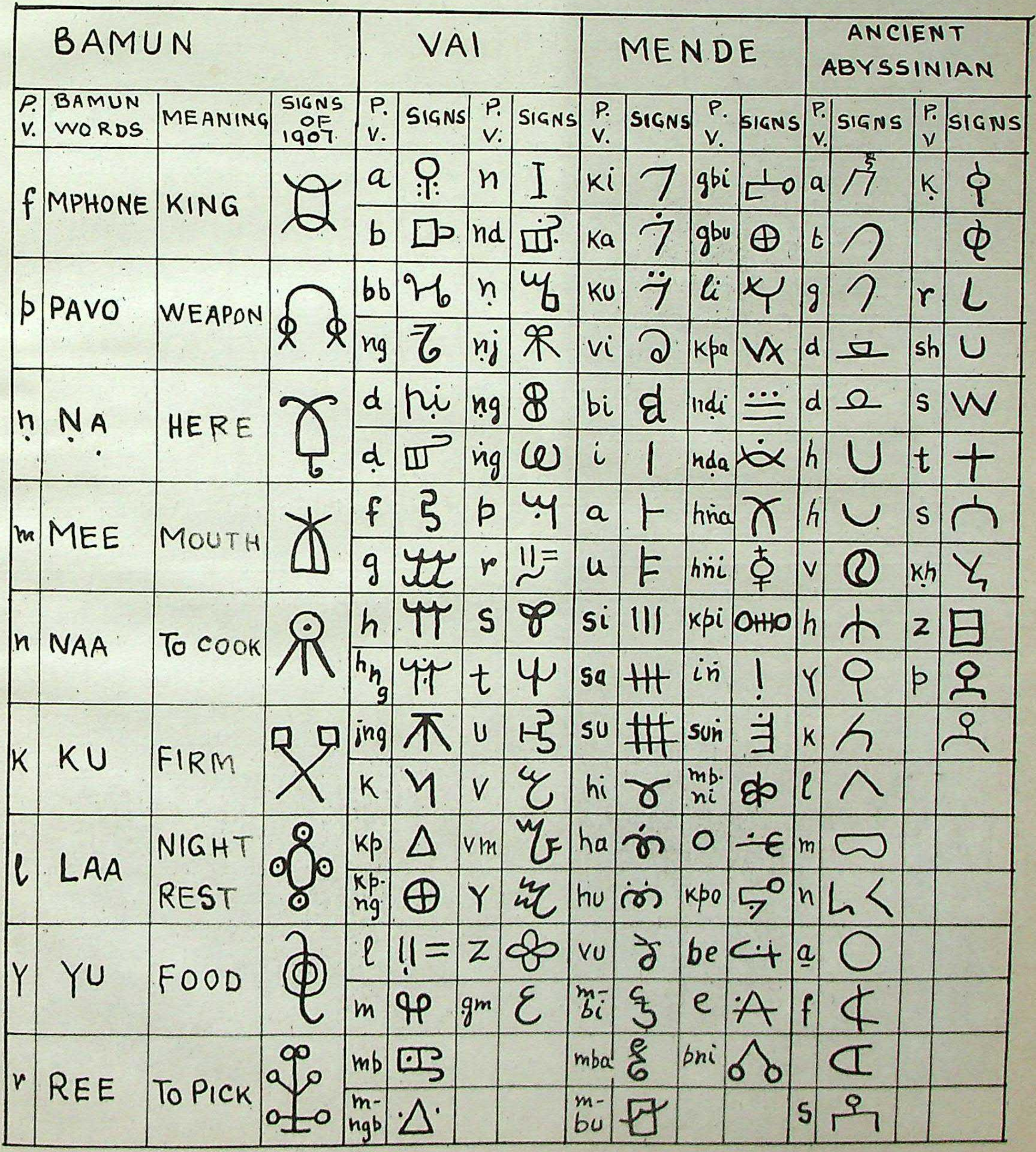
BAMUN : Sultan Njoya of Bamun tribe in the country of Cameroon invented this script in 1903 for the purpose of maintaining secrecy among the people of his tribe. In the beginning it was ideographic but by gradual modifications it became partly syllabic and partly alphabetic. The number of signs were reduced to 80 from 1000 in 1907. After the death of the inventor in 1932 it fell in disuse.

VAI : This is called Vai after the name of the Vai tribe living in the west coast of Africa (Liberia, Sierre Leone and Upper Volta). According to a missionary — S. W. Koelle, it was created by a native of this tribe in 1850. His name was Momolu Duwalu Bukele and he dreamt this in sleep. It has 35 signs with six vowels for each sign. Its direction was left to right.

MENDE: This is after the name of Mende tribe living in Sierre Leone. According to Albert-Elber, who travelled widely in this area in 1935, it was created by a native Muslim tailor Kisimi Makala in the middle of 19th. century. It has 190 signs but few are given on the opposite page.

ANCIENT ABYSSINIAN : About 1200 B. C. the semitic people from Saba and Habast (South Arabia) migrated to Africa and found their kingdom of Axum in the northern parts of Ethiopia. Later on they named their country Habashit which became Abessi, Abyssi and Abyssinia to Europeans. This writing is a branch of South Semitic (Sabaean). It has 23 letters. Few are shown with variations but with the same phonetic value. It was deciphered by Littman and was invented in the middle of 4th. century A. D. It was written from right to left.

AFRICAN - 2



BAMUN				VAI				MENDE				ANCIENT ABYSSINIAN			
P. V.	BAMUN WORDS	MEANING	SIGNS OF 1907	P. V.	SIGNS	P. V.	SIGNS	P. V.	SIGNS	P. V.	SIGNS	P. V.	SIGNS	P. V	SIGNS
f	MPHONE	KING		a		n		Ki		gbi		a		Ḳ	
				b		nd		Ka		gbu		t			
þ	PAVO	WEAPON		bb		ṇ		Ku		li		g		r	
				ng		ṇj		vi		kpa		d		sh	
ṇ	ṆA	HERE		d		ṇg		bi		ṇḍi		d		s	
				ḍ		ṅg		i		nḍa		h		t	
m	MEE	MOUTH		f		þ		a		hna		ḥ		s	
				g		r		u		hni		v		kḥ	
n	NAA	TO COOK		h		s		si		kpi		h		z	
				hng		t		sa		iṅ		Y		þ	
K	KU	FIRM		jng		u		su		sun		k			
				K		v		hi		mb-ni		l			
l	LAA	NIGHT REST		kp		vm		ha		o		m			
				kp-ng		Y		hu		kpo		n			
Y	YU	FOOD		l		z		vu		be		a̱			
				m		gm		m-bi		e		f			
r	REE	TO PICK		mb				mba		bni					
				m-ngb				m-bu				s			

AMERICAN.........1

On the top Pictograms of Aztecs (a Red-Indian tribe) are given. This writing was in vogue during 8th. century. Below it, Aztec numerals* are given.

In the middle is Mayan writing. Mayans started settling in Yucatan (Eastern Mexico) about 5th. century B. C. Their culture flourished in 4th. century A D. and was destroyed by Diego de Landa. He prepared a list of the ideograms of Mayans which is now preserved in Spain and the destroyer became the only preserver of Mayan writing. Some scholars do not believe him. Below this are the following five Pictograms of Mayan Calendar :- –

1. KIN = One day or Sun.
2. UINAL = One month or 20 days.
3. TUN = One year of 360 days.
4. KATUN = It has 20 Tuns or 7200 days.
5 BAKTUN = It has 20 Katuns or 144000 days.

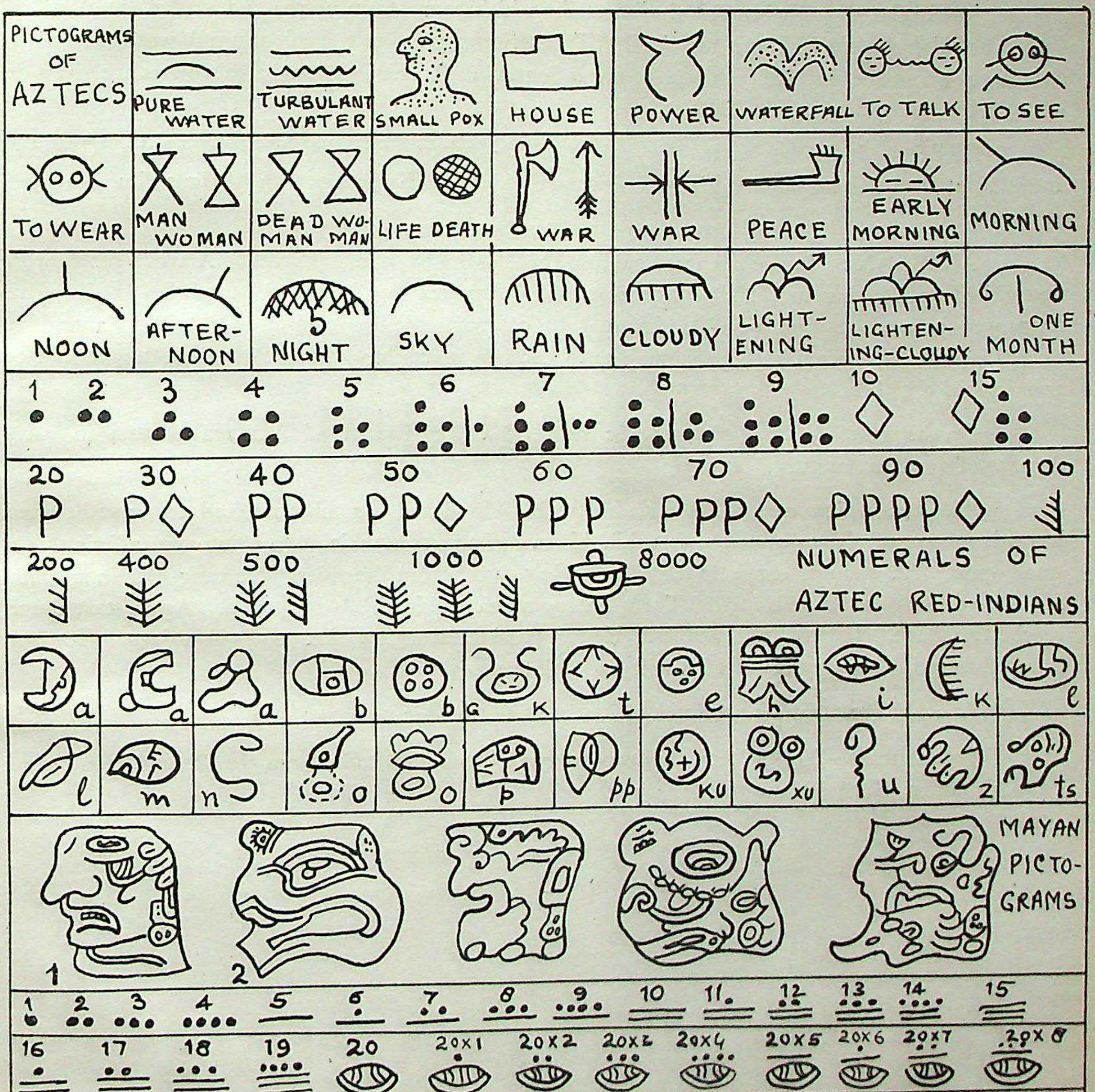
Below this are Mayan numerals.*

It was 12th. March. 1519 that Ferdinand Cortez of Spain landed in Tobasco with three hundred men. Within a period of seventeen months he conquered the capital — Anabuac (modern Mexico) of Aztecs and annihilated their whole empire.

---

*Taken from "Sankhyaen and Rekhaen" Peoples Publishing House, New Delhi, 1967, page 27.

AMERICAN - 1


PICTOGRAMS OF AZTECS
PURE WATER
TURBULANT WATER
SMALL POX
HOUSE
POWER
WATERFALL
TO TALK
TO SEE
TO WEAR
MAN WOMAN
DEAD MAN WOMAN
LIFE DEATH
WAR
WAR
PEACE
EARLY MORNING
MORNING
NOON
AFTER-NOON
NIGHT
5
SKY
RAIN
CLOUDY
LIGHT-ENING
LIGHTEN-ING-CLOUDY
ONE MONTH
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
15
20
30
40
50
60
70
90
100
200
400
500
1000
8000
NUMERALS OF AZTEC RED-INDIANS
a
a
a
b
b
G
K
t
e
h
i
K
l
l
m
n
o
o
p
pp
KU
XU
u
z
ts
1
2
MAYAN PICTO-GRAMS
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
20X1
20X2
20X3
20X4
20X5
20X6
20X7
20X8
20X10
20X12
20X13
20X14
20X15
20X17
20X18
20X19
20X20
MAYAN NUMERALS

AMERICAN.........2.

CHEROKEE : It is a Red-Indian tribe which came from north and settled in Alegheni (modern Oklahama) in 10th. century A. D. This writing (given in the left column) was invented by a native of this tribe in 1821 whose name was Sequoya. It has 85 signs (five vowels are given on the top) but fell in disuse after 1902.

CREE : It is the name of a nother Red - Indian tribe, living in Manitoba (Canada). In 1840 a Christian missionary J. Evans invented this Cree Syllabary with 44 signs (four are given at the top).

ALASKAN : In the last third column the Alaskan Syllabary is given. Alaskan shores were first visited by Berring in 1728. Alaska was sold to America by Russia on March 30, 1867. This script was created by a native of Alaska in 19th. century. In the column of Phonetic Value some sounds are shown with four letters but due to lack of space they are splitted but they should be pronounced together.

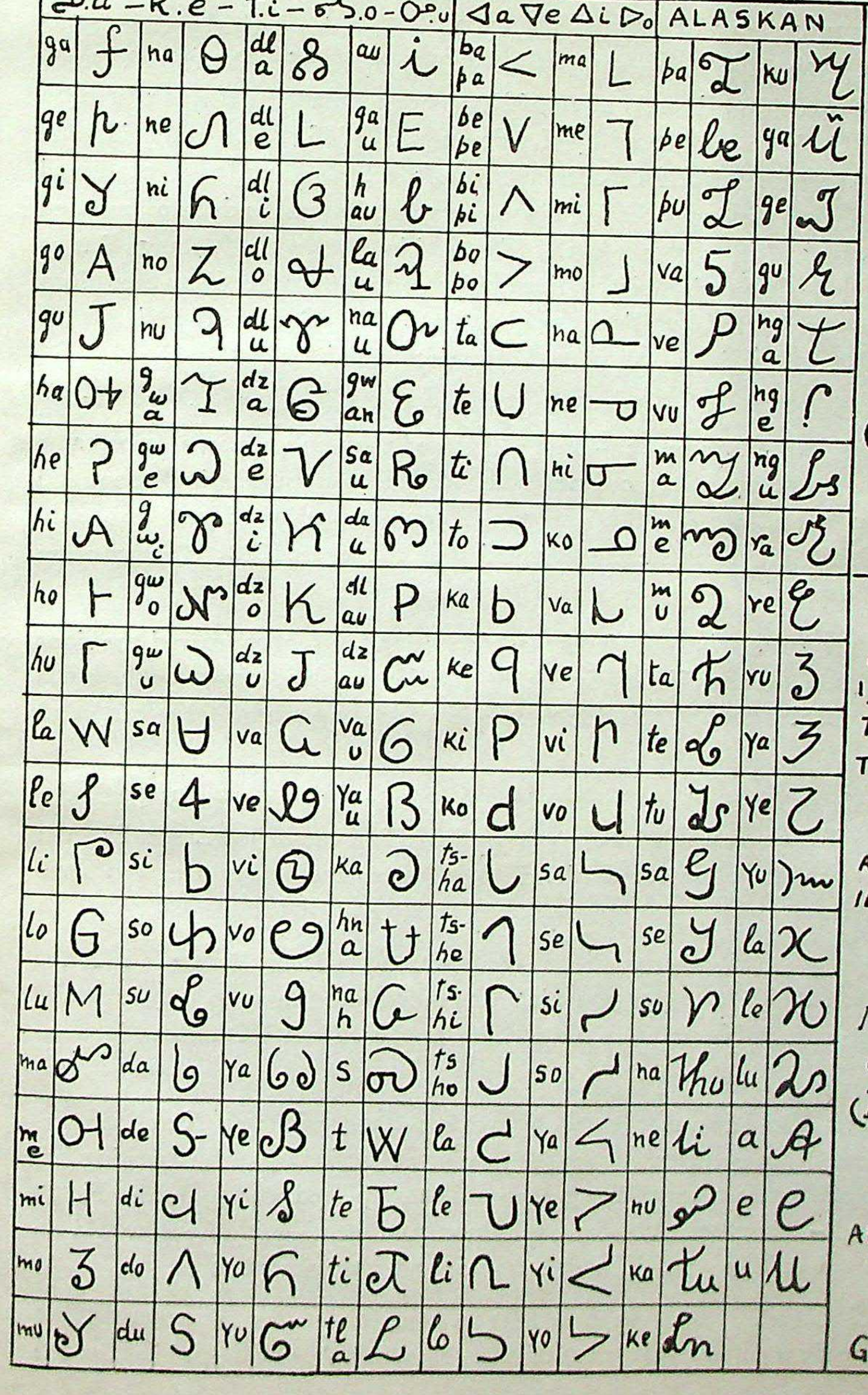
On the right side is a pictographic story of a Red-Indian of America written in early decades of the 19th. century. It says :

"A Red-Indian quarrelled with his wife. He picked up his bow and arrow and started towards the forest. Then came the snowfall. He saw two tents in which two men were suffering from small -pox. He ran and came to the river. He saw fishes in the river. He caught them and ate. He stayed for two days and left. Then he saw a bear. He killed and ate it. Again started and reached a village. He saw his enemies. He ran passing through a lake. He saw a deer. He killed it and dragged it home. He met his wife and children again."

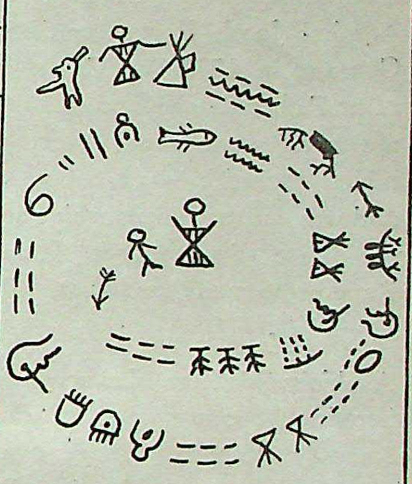
Another Pictographic specimen of Alaska is given, which means :

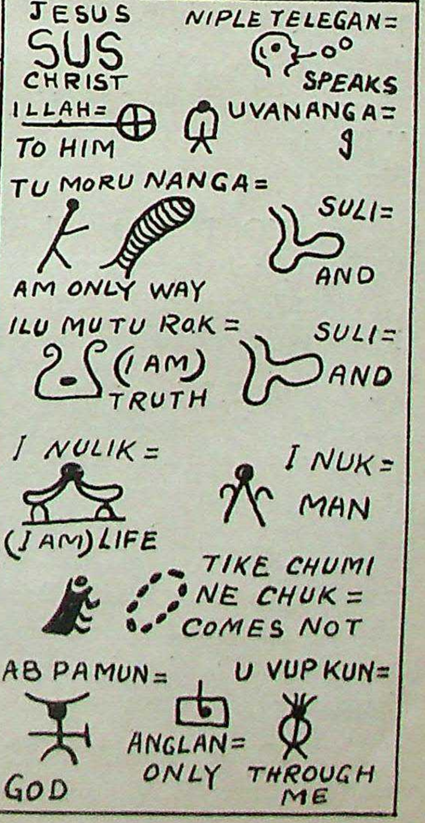
Jesus Speaks – I only show the way to man, I am the truth, I am the life and man cannot go to his father (God) without me".

AMERICAN - 2


D.a - R.e - T.i - ᏫᏐ.o - Ꮎ.u
ᐊa ᐁe ᐃi ᐅo
ALASKAN
ga ge gi go gu ha he hi ho hu la le li lo lu ma me mi mo mu
ha ne ni no nu gwa gwe gwi gwo gwu sa se si so su da de di do du
dla dle dli dlo dlu dza dze dzi dzo dzu va ve vi vo vu Ya Ye Yi Yo Yu
au gau hau lau nau gwan sau dau dlau dzau vau Yau ka hna nah s t te ti tla
ba pa, be pe, bi pi, bo po, ta te ti to ka ke ki ko ts-ha ts-he ts-hi ts ho la le li lo
ma me mi mo ha ne hi ko va ve vi vo sa se si so Ya Ye Yi Yo
pa pe pu va ve vu ma me mu ta te tu sa se su ha ne hu ka ke
ku ga ge gu nga nge ngu Ya re Yu Ya Ye Yu la le lu a e u

A STORY IN PICTOGRAMS




JESUS
SUS
CHRIST
NIPLE TELEGAN=
SPEAKS
ILLAH=
TO HIM
UVANANGA=
TU MORU NANGA=
AM ONLY WAY
SULI=
AND
ILU MUTU ROK=
(I AM)
TRUTH
SULI=
AND
I NULIK=
(I AM) LIFE
I NUK=
MAN
TIKE CHUMI
NE CHUK=
COMES NOT
AB PAMUN=
GOD
ANGLAN=
ONLY
U VUP KUN=
THROUGH
ME

FEW OTHER

PICTOGRAPHIC WRITING OF EASTER ISLAND : This island with an area of 70 square miles (now under Chile) is 2500 miles towards the west of Chile in Pacific Ocean A Dutch Admiral Jacob Roggeveen discovered it on Easter day in 1722, hence the name. It was visited by Gonzales in 1770, by Captain Cook in 1774 and by La Perouse in 1786. Thereafter in 1864 came Father Roussel and in 1914 archaeologist Mrs. Katherine Routledge, who found and examined about 400 stone-images – some of them were over 30 feet high -- rock inscriptions and many wooden tablets, incised by shark-bones, dated 17th. century A. D. The writing was named Rango-Rango and was written in ploughing style. One such tablet is given on the opposite page discovered from the natives of this island. It was deciphered by Thor, reading as, "The God of sky and earth is Rango who made the light". This system is still considered as undeciphered.

Many more researches were made by archaeologists and scholars – Thor Heyerdahl, A. Skjolsvold, Henry Lavachery, Alfred Metraux etc. – and it is stated that an unknown tribe came here in 4th. century A. D. who constructed terraced pedestals called 'Ahu' numbering about 260 and on these platforms they erected well-carved stone-images. They deserted the island probably due to small-pox epidemic. Other immigrants came who left the island in 1680. Lastly came the Polynesian tribe in 18th. century.

Origin of this writing is not known, but G. Hevesy, a Hungarian scholar, compared the signs (few are given on the right side as, 1. Indus Valley signs and 2. Easter Island signs) with Indus Valley signs. The similarity has baffled the scholars due to the difference of period (2000 years) and distance.

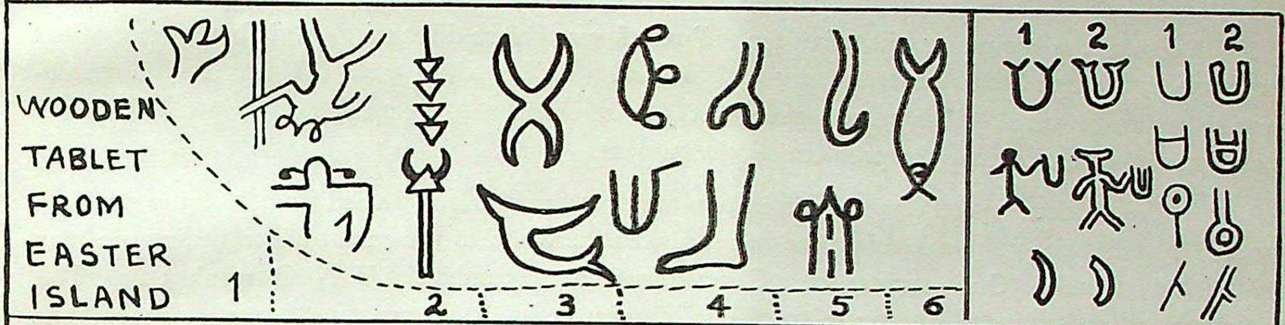
SHORTHAND : The first shorthand was invented in Athens in 4th. century B. C. John Willis invented another type in 1602 which was used upto the end of 17th. century. Lastly Pittman (1813-1897) created a system which has been standardized, being well kown, it is not given here. Many countries have their own shorthand.

BRAILLE : This system was created by a French blind-teacher – Louis Braille in 1829 for blinds with six dots (given on the left side of the page) which are embossed on the paper by a special type-writer. It is read by finger-touch. Numerals of this writing are also given. It is now internationally accepted.

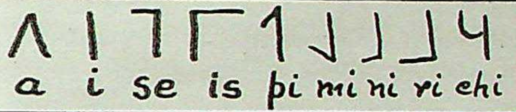
INTERNATIONAL PICTO : It was invented by two scholars of Holland (Karel Janson) and West Germany (Andre Eckhardt) in pictures, hence the name. A dictionary of this writing has also been prepared. This is one of the efforts for creating oneness in the splitted world. If this "Picto" after due modifications is accepted – though chances are very remote and seemingly nil – it would be interesting to note that man started writing with pictures and may end also with pictures.

SOME MODERN SIGNS : Inspite of innumerable systems of writing in the world, the man could not do away with the signs used by the man of remote past. Few of them given at the bottom.

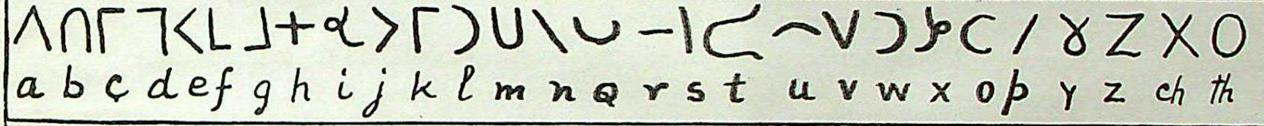
FEW OTHER


WOODEN TABLET FROM EASTER ISLAND
1
2
3
4
5
6
1
2
1
2

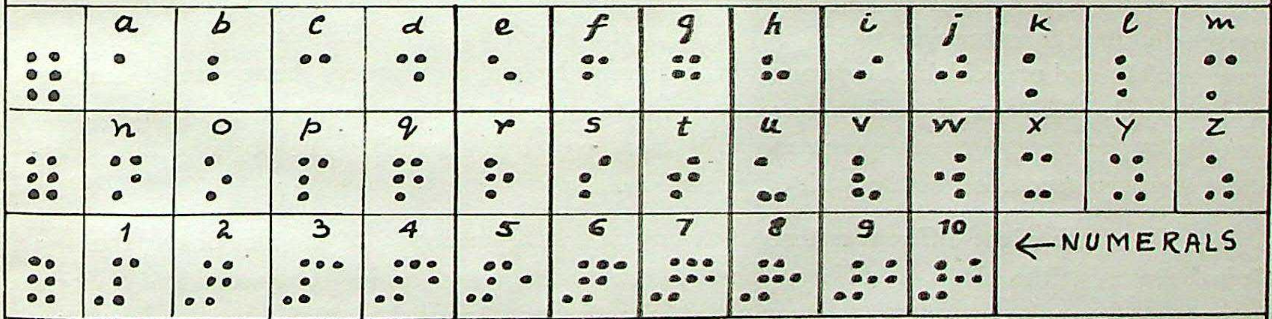
EARLIEST SHORT-HAND, 400 B.C. FROM ATHENS


a
i
se
is
pi
mi
ni
ri
chi

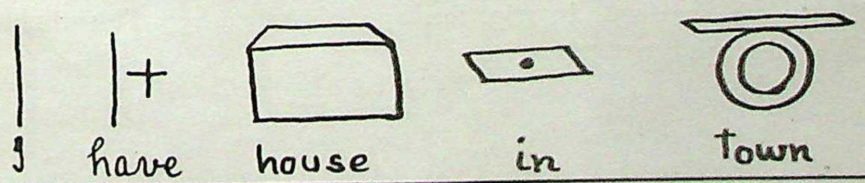
INVENTED BY JOHN WILLIS IN 1602


a b ç d e f g h i j k l m n q r s t u v w x o p y z ch th

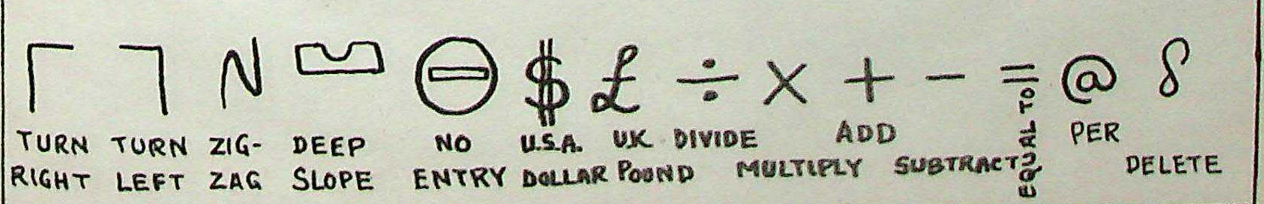
BRAILLE SYSTEM OF WRITING FOR BLINDS – INVENTED IN 1829


a b c d e f g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t u v w x y z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
← NUMERALS

INTERNATIONAL PICTO


I
have
house
in
town

SOME MODERN SIGNS


TURN RIGHT
TURN LEFT
ZIG-ZAG
DEEP SLOPE
NO ENTRY
U.S.A. DOLLAR
U.K. POUND
DIVIDE
MULTIPLY
ADD
SUBTRACT
EQUAL TO
PER
DELETE

CONCLUSION

From the beginning till today the efforts of man were directed towards betterment of self and society through better understanding and goodwill based on better ways and means of communication and expression. This process gave birth to innumerable speeches and scripts. Thus the solution of the past became the problem of the present.

Tremendous speed of man within two hundred years has increased from 10 miles per hour to 20,000 miles and more and this speed has shrunken the world to the extent of compelling the man to think in terms of 'One' such as, one Government (the preamble of U. N. O. speaks that "This assembly of nations would be transformed one day into a world government"), one currency, one postal-fee, one faith, one speech and one system of writing. Today there are about 400 scripts, some of them are similar with a negligible difference, and 2796 spoken languages employed by man. There is no accurate writing system in the world which can accurately produce all the prevailing sounds of the different speeches. Accurate means, whatever is spoken may be written and whatever is written may be read. All the current systems of the world have failed to achieve this accuracy. Various speeches and scripts have created an unbridgeable gap among the people of the world.

On one side the technological and scientific advancements are trying to bring the man nearer but on the other side speech and script, soaked with the spirit of nationalism, have created innumerable and unavoidable hinderances in achieving the goal of nearness, better understanding and goodwill. However, the efforts have not come to an end and one should remain optimistic that one day or the other, one such speech and script may be evolved for uniting the world for the betterment of future generation with a spirit of internationalism.

The birth of the different systems of writing is not the monopoly of one race or one country. It is the result of the efforts of different races and countries, transforming their social and political faces every now and then under the compelled circumstances created by man himself. I am sure thinkers and reformers would not sit at rest and would direct their thoughts and efforts towards the oneness of the world, with one speech and script for the whole humanity. This would certainly create better understanding through better expression.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Allen, A. B. Romance of Alphabet 1937.
2. Arbery, A. J. Specimens of Arabic and Persian Palaeography 1929.
3. Barton, G. A. The Origin and Development of Babylonian Writing 1913.
4. Benett, E. L. Pylos Tablets 1955.
5. Bork, F. Elamisch studien 1932.
6. Breasted, J. H. Ancient Records of Egypt 1909.
7. Buck, C. D. A Grammar of Oscan and Umbrian
8. Budge, E.A.W. The Rosetta Stone 1929.
9. Buhler, George. Origin of Brahmi Alphabet 1896.
10. Burnell, A. C. Elements of South Indian Palaeography 1968.
11. Chamberlain, B.H. A Practical Introduction to the Study of Japanese Writing 1905.
12. Cleator, P. E. Lost Languages 1957.
13. Clodd, E. The Story of the Alphabet 1938.
14. Conway, R.S. The Ancient Alphabets of Italy (Cambridge Ancient History, Vol. IV.,pp. 395 – 403) 1930.
15. Cooke, G. A. A Text Book of North Semitic Inscriptions 1903.
16. Cook, S. A. Glossary of Aramaic Inscriptions 1898.
17. Crawford, O. G. S. Article on Bamun Writing ("Antiquity", Dec. 1935).
18. Diringer, David. The Alphabet, A Key to the History of Mankind 1949.
19. Driver, G.R. Semitic Writing From Pictography to Alphabet 1948.
20. Fateh Singh, Dr. सिन्धु घाटी की लिपि में ब्राह्मणों और उपनिषदों के प्रतीक 1969.
21. Gardiner, A. H. Egyptian Grammar 1937.
22. Gelb, I. J. A Study of Writing 1952.
23. Grierson, G. A. Linguistic Survey of India 1904 – 1928.
24. Griffith, F. L. The Inscriptions From Meroe 1911.
25. Gugushivili, A. The Georgian Alphabet 1935.
26. Harris, Z.S. A Grammar of Phoenician Language 1936.
27. Heras, P.H. Mohenjo – Daro, The People and the Land – ("Indian Culture", Vol. III, 1937).
28. Hevesy, G. D. The Easter Island and the Indus – Valley Scripts (Anthropos) 1918.
29. Hooke, S. H. The Early History of Writing ("Antiquity") 1937.
30. Hopkins, L. C. The Development of Chinese Writing 1910.
31. Hunter, G. R. The Scripts of Harappa And Mohenjo – Daro and its connections with others Scripts 1934.
32. Jackson, A. V. W. The Avestan Alphabets and its Transcription 1890.
33. Jansen, H. Sign Symbols and Scripts 1965.
34. King, L. W. Assyrian Language 1901.

35. Krishnarao, M. V. Indus Script Deciphered 1969.
36. Laufer, B. A Summary of Mongolian Literature 1927.
37. ,, Origin of Tibetan Writing (Journal of American Oriental Society 1918).
38. ,, The Nichols Mo-So Manuscript – (The Geographical Review 1916)
39. Littmann, E. Syriac Inscriptions 1934.
40. ,, Safaitic Inscriptions 1943.
41. Madona, A. N. A Guide to Etruscan Antiquities, 1954.
42. Marshall, Sir John. Mohenjo – Daro and Indus-Valley Civilsation (3-Vols) 1931.
43. Martin, W. J. The Origin of Writing 1943.
44. Mason, W. A. The History of the Art of Writing 1920.
45. Mogeod, F. W. H. The Syllabic Writing of the Vai People (Journal of the African Society 1910).
46. Moorey, J. Improved Cherokee Alphabets (American Anthropologist 1892).
47. Moorhouse, A. C. Writing and the Alphabet 1946.
48. Myers, J. L. Scripta Minoa II-1952.
49. Neill, J. M. The Irish Ogham Inscriptions (Proc. of the Royal Irish Academy 1900).
50. Ogg, O. 26 Letters 1948.
51. Ojha, G. H. भारतीय प्रचीन लिपि माला (द्वि० संस्करण)1970.
52. Owen, G. The Evolution of Chinese Writing 1911.
53. Ray, S. H. Note on Inscribed Tablets From Easter Island (Man.) 1932.
54. Ray, S. K. Indus Script Memo (1, 2) 1962.
55. Richter, G.M.A. Handbook of the Etruscan Collection 1940.
56. Schultz, H. B. Gothic Script of Middle Ages 1939.
57. Shakyavanshi, H. नेपाल लिपि माला 1953.
58. Shankaranand, S. The Indus People Speak 1964.
59. Sprangling, M. The Alphabet 1931.
60. Stawell, F. M. A Clue to the Cretan Scripts 1931.
61. Stephens, G. The Runes, Whence came they 1894.
62. Taylor, Lord W. The Mycenaeans 1964.
63. Thomas, E. Sassanian Inscriptions – (Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society 1868).
64. Thompson, E.M. An Introduction of Greek and Latin Palaeography 1912.
65. Thompson, T. The ABC of Our Alphabet 1942.
66. Ulman, B. L. The Origin and Development of Alphabet 1927.
67. Vaillant, G. C. The Aztecs of Mexico 1941.
68. Whorf, B. L. Maya Writing and its Decipherment (Maya Research 1935).

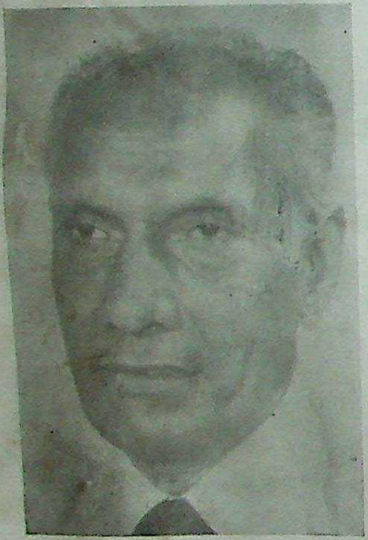
ERRATA

Page	Line No.	From	Wrong	Right
4	11th.	top	in-scription	inscription
8	6th.	top (11)	neper	he
8	4th.	bottom	(2)	(3)
12	7th.	top	R. Lepsius	K. Lepsius
18	17th.	top	Al-bright	Albright
26	17th.	top	1986	1906
30	3rd.	bottom	front	back
32	8th.	top	(1594-1669)	(1494-1569)
40	16th.	top	form	from

Department of Ancient Indian History
Culture and Archaeology
COLLEGE OF INDOLOGY
Banaras Hindu University—Varanasi–5
11-3-1977

I have pleasure in certifying that I have had occasion to glance through the pages of the manuscript of the book "World Alphabets—Their Origin and Development". To the best of my knowledge, Shri Ishwar Chandra Rahi is the first Indian to prepare such a book. He has taken great pains to collect the material. He has undertaken tiring journeys, without any facility worth the name, to study Hieroglyphs, the Cuneiform letters and the Hittite, Phoenician and other scripts. I am glad to note that Shri Rahi has presented a technical subject in an easy style for the common man. I am sure the book will be well received.

Sd. Lallanji Gopal
Professor & Head of the Department
and Dean, Faculty of Arts.



Ishwar Chandra Rahi

Shri Ishwar Chandra Rahi is a self-taught and self-made man. He was born in a middle-class family on 15th August 1916—village Behti, district Shahjahanpur. Due to the death of his parents at an early age he could not persecute his studies.

Although he does not posses any academic or educational qualifications, yet he is the author of ten books in English and Hindi including the one in your hand. He has read practically all the scriptures of the great religions of the world along with physiology, embryology, anthropology and ancient-history. For the last 17 years he has burdened himself with an unfathomable subject of "World Alphabets". He has read more than 250 books on the subject of palaeography, archaeology and the different systems of writings of the world. He has undertaken arduous journeys to west-Asian, European and African countries on bicycle to survey the places where ancient alphabets were born.

He has not only acquired the knowledge but also tried to impart it to the student community addressing thousands of educational and academic institutions of India and abroad. Before writing this book, he wrote three booklets on the subjets and one voluminous book of 800 pages in Hindi "Lekhan Kala Ka Itihaas" (लेखन कला का इतिहास) for Hindi Sansthan (U. P. Hindi Granth Academy) likely to be published soon.

He is a man of tremendous evergy without having any Bank-balance, family, property, home or any affiliation with any religious or political institution. He is a free thinker and deeply devoted to his work of acquiring and imparting. He is keenly desirous to end his life in the service of humanity.

Sd. Prem Nath Bhargava
BHARGAVA PRINTING PRESS,
KATRA, ALLAHABAD U. P., INDIA